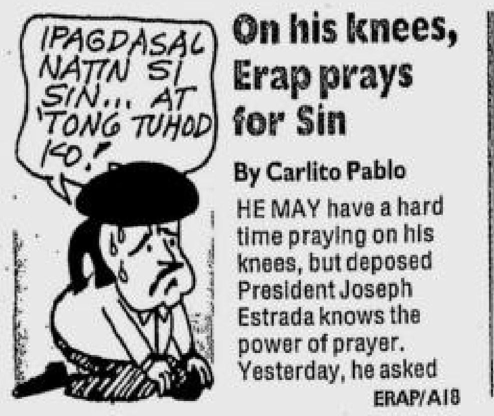
Gov't names new directors to San Miguel board

STORY ON PAGE A2


IPAGDASAL NATIN SI SIN... AT 'TONG TUHOD KO!

On his knees, Erap prays for Sin

By Carlito Pablo

HE MAY have a hard time praying on his knees, but deposed President Joseph Estrada knows the power of prayer. Yesterday, he asked

ERAP/A18

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The news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc. is celebrating its first year today. Read about it in the special supplement in Section E.

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Erap confession: Ploy or blunder

Estrada says Ocampo made him sign as 'Jose Velarde'

By Volt Contreras

THE ESTRADA camp yesterday turned the tables on former bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, saying the star witness for the prosecution in the ex-President's plunder trial was the one who "instructed" him to sign as Jose Velarde on bank documents in February 2000.

The Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Estrada's party, took this approach in an attempt to blunt the impact of his televised admission the other night that he indeed signed as Velarde albeit as "guarantor" of a bank loan sought by his businessman-friend William Gatchalian.

Estrada himself might do some more explaining to the press this morning when police escort him to the Sandigan-

ESTRADA/A18

'Strategy to get lesser penalty'

By Christian V. Esguerra, Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet L. Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

WAS it a ploy or another Erap blunder?

Former House prosecutors and senator-judges in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday said Estrada's admission that he signed bank documents as Jose Velarde was an admission of guilt.

But some of them said the admission could be a strategy for Estrada to get the lesser penalty of illegal use of an alias and not of plunder, a capital offense.

If Estrada gets the lesser penalty, he can invoke his detention as time served so that he can walk out to freedom, according to a member of the House.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said the admission made Estrada a witness against himself.

"That's the tragedy of Erap. He does not seem to realize the consequences of his actions," said Pimentel, the Senate President during the impeachment trial.

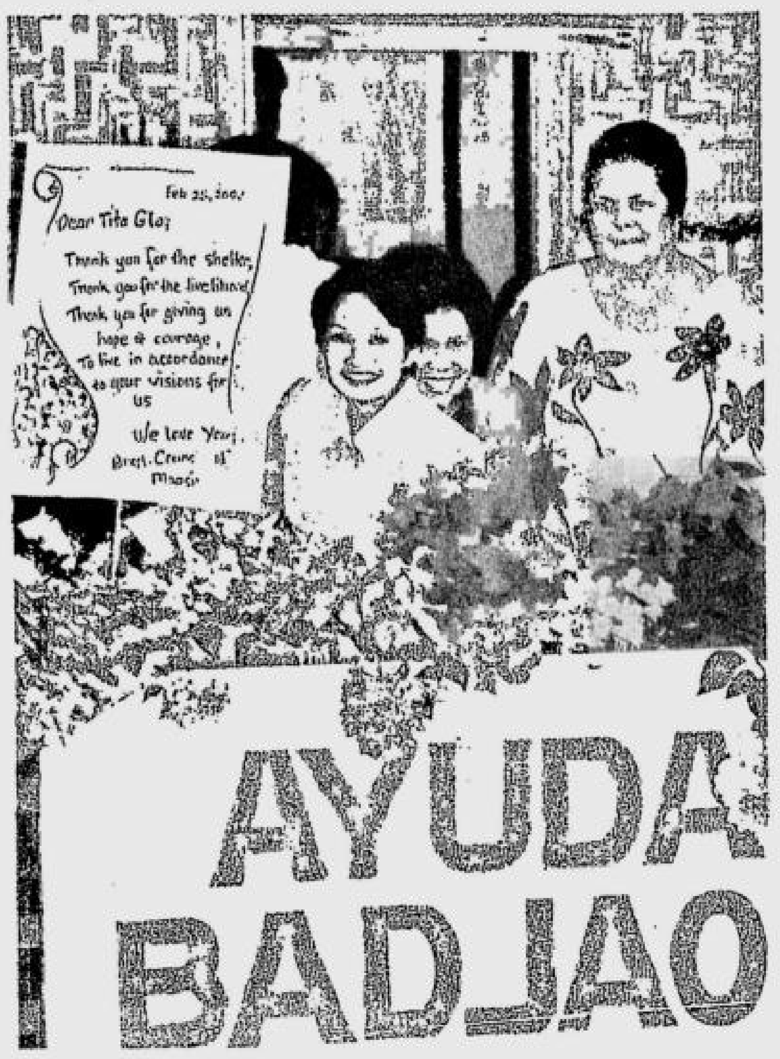
Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said Estrada's admission strengthened the prosecution's case against him.

"It's very good news not only to the prosecution but to the Filipino people," Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said.

Desierto said it was now easier to prove that Estrada indeed amassed ill-gotten wealth deposited in the Velarde account during his short-lived presidency.

The existence of the controversial Velarde account was one of the series of "overt or criminal acts" mentioned by the prosecution in indicting Estrada for plunder last year.

ERAP/A18


Feb 25, 2002

Dear Tita Glo;

Thank you for the shelter,
Thank you for the livelihood
Thank you for giving us
hope & courage,
To live in accordance
to your visions for
us

We love You;
Brgy. Cruz
Masa

LOVE letter to President Macapagal from a grateful Badjao village in Barangay Sinunuc, Zamboanga City, where she visits on Tuesday with Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat. Speaking in the local dialect, Chavacano, the President asks Zamboangueños to unite and work together to fight terrorism.

EDWIN BACASMAS

TEARFUL tributes are held by US troops for their fallen comrades who perished in the crash of a Chinook chopper during a memorial service at the Mactan air base in Cebu City. (Above) A display of the names of the 10 heroes and their badges.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Palace: Take Sin's advice seriously

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's remark that allowing Joseph Estrada to go abroad for knee surgery would be "stupid" is something that "should be taken seriously," President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said yesterday.

It was the closest to an opinion expressed so far by Malacañang vis-à-vis the resolutions issued by lawmakers in the House and Senate asking that the ousted President be allowed to seek medical treatment

PALACE/A18

10 US soldiers in Chinook crash honored for heroism

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

MACTAN ISLAND, Cebu—As the band played "Taps," many had tears in their eyes.

Some 75 American servicemen—with 10 gaps in their ranks—and 30 Filipino soldiers stood in formation yesterday at the Benito Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City under a rapidly setting tropical sun to honor the 10 Americans who perished in the Chinook crash on Friday.

Behind them were a C-130 plane and an MH-47E helicopter, nearly identical to the one that crashed in the waters off Zamboanguita town in Negros Oriental.

"Their deaths remind us that the fight against the enemies of peace and security comes at a cost," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said while posthumously awarding the 10 men with the Bronze Star, the country's highest peacetime medal.

Villanueva called them "heroes," citing their "extraordinary and distinguished service rendered as members of the US Forces" participating in the RP-US Balikatan military exercise.

The 15-minute tribute started with a memorial service inside the hangar, attended by more than 300 US soldiers and a 200-member Philippine contingent. Among those present were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, US Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts, and US Rear Adm. William Sullivan, chief of plans and programs at the US Pacific Command based in Hawaii.

"We share in the grief of their families and loved ones. We know that no words are enough to lighten their burden today," Villanueva said. "But let me assure them that they are indeed heroes. They died standing for a noble cause: of keeping the world free of people who do not believe in the rights of other

10 US SOLDIERS/A6

Baby Salaam symbol of love amid hatred

JERUSALEM—Her name means peace, and there was no way she could have made it amid all the violence and hatred around her.

But thanks to a few Arabs, Jews and Christians who overcame their differences and rediscovered their common humanity in her.

Palestinian doctors found tiny Salaam abandoned at birth in a roadside heap of trash, Christian nuns nurtured her, and an Israeli surgeon repaired her heart.

The 10-month-old baby made a full recovery. With a pink clip in her dark hair, she was released from Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital on Monday.

It's a rare tale in a region torn by 17 months of Palestinian-Israeli conflict in which children and infants on both sides have suffered and died.

Palestinians found her along a road north of the West Bank town of Ramallah and took her to a shelter run by Palestinian social services in the town of Tulkarem. A group of nuns in Bethlehem gave her a permanent home.

But the baby's health worsened.

BABY/A6

FOUND by Palestinians, nurtured by nuns and made whole by an Israeli doctor. AP

VAL HANDUMON

TWO Black Hawks coming up. Propellers are assembled on arrival in Zamboanga on Tuesday.

'GENTLE WIND'

US NGOs lead fight for Basileños' hearts

By Carlito Pablo
in Manila
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PRIVATE groups in the United States are helping provide humanitarian, livelihood and other forms of support for the people of Basilan, the main theater of military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday said the assistance from US nongovernment organizations in connection with Balikatan 02-1 was "already in the pipeline," and would be combined with resources to be allocated by the Philippine government through Task Force Gentle Wind.

The task force led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development was formed to ad-

US/A5

Pinay one of 3 who hit $193-M California lotto

ORANGE, California—A Filipina who migrated to the United States only a year ago was one of three winners in the $193-million California SuperLotto-Plus draw on Saturday.

Welma Naguit bought only one lottery ticket and she wasn't even in the States when she purchased it.

Naguit was visiting the Philippines when relatives in Montebello, California, told her of the huge jackpot. She had asked them to buy her a single ticket, one of three that hit the winning numbers in the Feb. 16 draw.

On Monday, Naguit stepped forward to claim her share of the record single-state drawing, the last of the big winners to do so.

The soft-spoken mother of a 12-year-old girl appeared un-

PINAY/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

G'BYE! MAY KAPALIT NA KAYO!

Gov't names new directors to SMC board

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government finally named yesterday five new members to the board of San Miguel Corp. to replace the five nominees of ousted President Joseph Estrada who had refused to vacate their board seats since January last year.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said the five new directors who would serve as the government's watchdogs on the SMC board are former Court of Appeals Justice Hector Hofileña, former Presidential Security Group chief Leo Alvez, GMA-7 television network president Menardo Jimenez, former Nestlé president Juan V. Santos and former Nueva Ecija Rep. Pacifico Fajardo.

The five will be appointed at today's 11 a.m. meeting of the SMC board, before the special stockholders' meeting where the SMC-Kirin deal would be voted on.

The special stockholders' meeting will be held at 1 p.m. today at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

"They have already accepted the directorships," said Yorac, adding that the five nominees were President Macapagal-Arroyo's choices.

Yorac herself had turned down an offer to sit on the SMC board, saying she wanted to avoid a conflict of interest since she was the concurrent PCGG chair.

Yorac said the five new PCGG nominees would not propose any revisions to the SMC-Kirin deal, and would approve it as presented. Kirin Brewery of Japan had agreed to buy into SMC and allow Cojuangco to vote their shares for five years.

"That was part of the agreement with (Eduardo "Danding") Cojuangco," Yorac said.

The chair of the United Coconut Planters' Bank, Edward Go, will also be present at today's board meeting representing the PCGG, Yorac said.

"He'll be receiving the ballots for us," she added.

Yorac said the voting at SMC today would be in "accordance with the interim agreement."

"We expect professional behavior in (their) decision-making," Yorac said, referring to the five PCGG nominees.

"We expect that the directors will (work for) the enhancement of the value of the shares, and (for the) successful implementation of business policies," she said.

In this case, Yorac said, both the government side and the Cojuangco side are "committed" to work for the growth of SMC.

To make sure the new government nominees would always have the interest of the PCGG at heart, they would be required to report regularly to the commission, Yorac said.

The PCGG directors could also be removed and deemed resigned by the commission at any time it saw fit, Yorac said.

The five Estrada nominees who will be formally ousted from the SMC board today are Estrada's brother-in-law, Raul de Guzman, movie producer Espiridion Laxa, Allan Lee, Benjamin Paulino and Hermogenes Tantoco.

They had refused the PCGG's order for them to step down since their appointment by Estrada on Jan. 20, 2001, the same day he was ousted from office.

Yorac said the PCGG was "happy" with the "interim agreement" with Cojuangco and the arrangement at SMC.

Yorac said the two-year interim agreement was very clear—that Cojuangco would continue to manage SMC, but the civil and criminal cases against him regarding the sequestered shares would continue to be litigated by the government.

Asked how Cojuangco was persuaded to agree to the interim agreement that was favorable to the government, Yorac said she "charmed" Cojuangco.

Asked how Cojuangco conducted himself in the negotiations, she said he was also "charming."

The negotiations were "cordial" on both sides, she added.

Yorac said the PCGG would be revealing the terms of the interim agreement and the SMC-Kirin deal soon.

The government would be represented in the crucial SMC committees—two directors in the executive committee; two directors in the credit committee; two directors in the compensation committee, and one director in the nominations committee.

There would also be two directors each in the SMC subsidiaries: Purefoods and Cosmos Bottling Corp., and one director in Coca-Cola Bottling Corp., she said.

"I think everyone is interested in making San Miguel stay the course or even grow in the national interest," Yorac said.

"A corporation like this has to be solid. We won't achieve that if there's a lot of debate and squabbling," she added.

The PCGG chief said that both sides have also agreed to "elect independent directors" at SMC.

The relationship would be defined by "clarity and reasonableness," she said.

US military mulls replacing Chinooks; crash probe on

By Martin P. Marfil

THE UNITED States plans to replace the transport helicopters being used in the Balikatan 02-1 joint exercises with the Philippines days after a US special forces helicopter crashed off Negros island, a Philippine military official said.

But Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, who co-directs the exercises, stressed that the plan to replace the Chinook with another type of helicopter had nothing to do with the crash of the MH-47 chopper last Friday in which 10 US soldiers were presumed killed.

Teodosio said the replacement aircraft would also mostly be helicopters as Basilan, where the exercises are being held, has only a small airstrip.

Teodosio said the crash was considered an "isolated" incident and has not delayed the exercises in which US special forces are training and assisting Philippine military forces hunting down Abu Sayyaf bandits holding two US hostages.

From Washington, the Pentagon said yesterday US investigators probing the crash have said the helicopter had exploded but were unsure whether the blast resulted from the impact or occurred before the MH-47 plunged into the sea.

"There was an explosion of some sort," said Victoria Clarke, the chief Pentagon spokesperson.

"What they didn't know as of yesterday was if it was the result of hitting the water," she added.

All 10 people aboard the US Army MH-47 helicopter were presumed killed in the crash, although the bodies of only three crew members have been recovered.

The helicopter crashed after leaving Basilan island en route to Cebu. It was flying in tandem with a second MH-47 when it went down about 30 minutes before it was scheduled to land at Mactan Air Force Base, Pentagon officials said.

Clarke said that since the investigation was still under way, "we just can't tell" whether there was foul play.

Witnesses have told authorities they saw the helicopter go down in a ball of fire in the Bohol Sea. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and AFP***

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Look who's turning to kidnap-for-ransom

By Dona Pazzibugan

COMMUNIST guerrillas as well as former rebels have resorted to kidnapping for ransom to raise funds, police officials said in a Cabinet briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza said that of 14 kidnapping incidents monitored in Metro Manila and nearby urban centers this year, about five were carried out by New People's Army guerrillas, former NPA guerrillas or Alex Boncayao Brigade hit men.

Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane, who heads the National Anti-Kidnap Task Force, said the Naktaf arrested two NPA members in a recent anti-kidnap operation.

Mendoza said new kidnap groups have emerged that were distinct from the 21 kidnap syndicates earlier identified by authorities.

He said the police have already captured the leaders of eight of the 21 syndicates.

President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately ordered the release of P200 million for equipment for five special anti-kidnapping task forces deployed around the country after the briefing.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, while the ABB is the party's urban assassination squad, which killed scores of police and politicians in Manila in the 1980s.

The President's spokesperson said, however, police have yet to determine if the top communist party leadership was sanctioning these kidnapping activities.

"We still have to evaluate if there's concrete proof (the kidnapping activities) are being undertaken under the aegis of the CPP," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

But he noted a "pattern" of "lost commands" sprouting from organized armed rebel groups.

He said the Pentagon kidnap gang in Mindanao was allegedly made up of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group had begun as Muslim independence fighters.

Tiglao, a former student activist, said he was not surprised that communist rebels were turning to the lucrative kidnap-for-ransom business.

"If you've been an NPA for most of your adult life, and then you become disillusioned with the party leadership and you didn't have work, it's not surprising that you use your ability with guns (to make a living)," he said.

The NPA may also be having a hard time extorting money from businesses because of the economic downturn, he said.

"You can't extort (from businesses) over and over again," Tiglao said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, in a separate interview, said the PNP was "closely monitoring" not just former NPA members but also former police and military men who have joined kidnap-for-ransom gangs. *With AFP and AP*

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Sorry, cop chief says for banning militants from Edsa

By Agnes E. Donato and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE POLICE chief of Metro Manila, Edgardo Aglipay, yesterday publicly apologized to the Akbayan party-list group which police had barred from joining the Edsa I anniversary rites at the People Power Monument on Monday.

Aglipay explained that he was not at Edsa when the Akbayan ralliers were stopped by police at the approach to the flyover at the corner of Edsa and Santolan Road.

"I was at the Tactical Operations Center (in Camp Crame) at the time and I wasn't aware of the situation on the streets," Aglipay said.

"But I will ensure that this will not happen again," he said.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales was not appeased, however. She said Aglipay should have deputized someone if he could not be at the rally scene himself.

"The police kept telling us that they could not act without a go-signal from General Aglipay. This means there has been a measure of incompetence," Rosales said.

Akbayan president Joel Rocamora said the group was denied its right to assembly when it was barred from attending the Edsa I rites for allegedly carrying "abrasive" banners.

"All we were carrying were banners saying that 16 years after the toppling of the Marcos regime, the Marcos cronies, Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco and poverty remain," he said.

There was not a single banner calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, he pointed out.

"What is this administration afraid of anyway? Is it afraid to acknowledge that there are still poor people in the Philippines?" he asked.

Rocamora said any group wishing to join the Edsa I celebration should have been welcomed, with or without an invitation from the Edsa People Power Commission, which organizes the commemorative celebrations.

"If you control the movement of people, you violate the spirit of Edsa," he said.

Both Akbayan and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan castigated the Church for banning political rallies at the Edsa Shrine.

Rocamora said the shrine did not belong to the Church but to the people who overthrew the Marcos regime in 1986.

"The Edsa Shrine is sacred not because of Mama Mary's statue there, but because of the people who went to Edsa in 1986 guided by the Holy Spirit," Rocamora said.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo, along with former Presidents Ramos and Aquino and Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, has taken the 'people' out of 'people power'," he said.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas was "acting like a property custodian rather than a keeper of a legacy."

"It is not politics that desecrates the Edsa Shrine but narrow-minded people like Bishop Villegas who think that those who are not at Edsa to pray are out to mount an uprising," said Casiño, who is himself a member of the Edsa People Power Commission.

Villegas announced a day before the 16th anniversary commemoration of the 1986 people power uprising on Feb. 25 that political rallies would not be allowed at the historic shrine, apparently after militant groups critical of the Macapagal administration announced plans to hold protest actions there.

He cited the desecration of the shrine last year by Estrada supporters who attempted to stage another people power-type uprising that ended in the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang.

Casiño said that while Bayan and other militant groups did not approve of what the Estrada supporters did to the shrine, this should not be used as a reason to ban all political activities there.

"Is the good bishop now telling us that the thousands who went to Edsa last year to oust Estrada desecrated the shrine as well, since they were not there to pray but to mount an uprising?" Casiño asked.

"Will Bishop Soc stop us from going to the Edsa Shrine the next time we have to oust a fascist dictator or an evil president?" he added.

'Just kidding,' Dee says of pay rollback

"I WAS only joking."

Employers' Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee clarified yesterday that he was only kidding when he proposed earlier a wage rollback to counter the militant labor groups' proposal for a P125 wage increase this year.

It was just a joke, Dee said, after militants threatened to protest against Ecop yesterday.

Dee said that, on the contrary, he has even predicted an improved employment situation in the country in the first semester of the year following the progress in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

"What I said was the guidelines were very clear that a wage increase can only be effected once a year unless there were intervening events," Dee told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board approved a P30 emergency cost-of-living allowance (Ecola) for Metro Manila workers last year to be given in two tranches.

The first P15 was released in November while the other P15 will be given in May.

Dee said the approved Ecola was based on a 10-percent consumer price index even if the CPI is now only at around four percent.

"They (militants) said there were intervening events, so I said there certainly were and it was the lower CPI, so that should merit a wage reduction," Dee said, although he stressed he had made the comment in jest.

"What we had to give, we already gave," Dee said.

But the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya branded Ecop's statement as "preposterous, unabashedly anti-worker and politically ridiculous."

Pamalakaya information chief Gerry Albert Corpuz said Ecop was circulating news of a wage rollback to test the waters. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Cop linked to kidnap gang faces dismissal

A POLICE colonel who had headed an anti-kidnapping task force in Mindanao has been recommended for summary dismissal for his alleged links to the very gang he was supposed to apprehend.

Senior Supt. William Dangane was recommended for dismissal by Director Lucas Managuelod, Philippine National Police director for investigation and detective management based, Managuelod told reporters, on sworn statements made by other suspected gang members.

Dangane was operations chief of Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon until he was relieved last week and charged criminally and administratively for his alleged links to the kidnap gang. The charges were filed on orders of Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Region XI commander.

Three suspected Pentagon members arrested earlier had tagged Dangane as their protector.

The police officer, reportedly a cousin of Pentagon gang chief negotiator Faisal Marohombsar, has denied the accusations against him. Marohombsar was arrested two weeks ago in Quiapo, Manila.

Luis Salazar, counsel for Dangane, dismissed the allegations against his client, calling them part of "a demolition job" and "a product of inter-unit rivalry."

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, a Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon agent who had also been linked to the Pentagon gang, has been cleared for lack of evidence.

"We found no prima facie evidence to charge him administratively in the kidnapping," said Managuelod, who added, however, that Alcuizar would still be investigated. *TJ Burgonio*

R. Manahan, 36

ROBERTO Roxas Manahan, son of Geronimo Manahan, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Architecture, and Margarita Roxas Manahan of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, died Monday. He was 36.

Aside from his parents, he is survived brothers and sisters in law Dojie and Sally, Ricky and Arlene, Chinky and Rose, and Arvie; nephew Rigo, and nieces Roselle, Margot, Pia and Mina. He was the nephew of The Manila Times editor in chief Zip Roxas.

His remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday at 7 a.m. Cremation will follow immediately.

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A. For banks and financial institutions

1. A sworn statement with the following representations and warranties:
    1.1. That it has complied with the required minimum capital requirements in its industry classification
    1.2. That it has not incurred net deficiencies in its reserves against deposit and deposit substitute liabilities for the past three (3) months immediately preceding date of submission of proposal
    1.3. That the bank or any of its officers has not been fined or suspended for any unsafe and unsound practices for the past two (2) years or the same has been corrected
    1.4. That it has complied with the required limits on loans to DOSRI and single borrowers
    1.5. That its directors and officers for the past 2 years have passed the fit and proper test of the BSP, and that none of its stockholders, directors or senior officers have pending cases before any court or administrative agency of any jurisdiction for violation of any banking laws, rules or regulations, including cases involving estafa or breach of trust.
2. Written certification of the following financial data as of 31 January 2002:
    2.1. Capital adequacy ratio (based on risk-weighted assets)
    2.2. Ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) to total assets
    2.3. Ratio of total loan loss reserves to NPLs
    2.4. Ratio of DOSRI loans to total loans
    2.5. Net income for the last 3 calendar years
    2.6. Return on assets

B. For individual/institutional investors

1) Bio-data of the investor/s or of major stockholders/directors and officers for institutional investor/s
2) Annual reports of business/es owned or managed for the past three (3) years
3) Clearance from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Bureau of Investigation for individual investor/s
4) If the proponent has been involved in the management of a bank for the past 2 years, he must show proof that he has passed the fit and proper rule by the BSP. Otherwise, he should subject himself to such test and submit certification thereof.
5) Proofs of financial capacity as follows:
    a) Latest Income Tax Returns
    b) Notarized Statement of Assets and Liabilities
    c) Certificate/s of Deposit/s from depository banks and other evidences of financial capacity to acquire the bank
    d) Authority to verify bank deposits
    e) Latest Audited Financial Statements (for institutional investors)

Please note that any representation or warranty that is proved to be incorrect or misleading in any material respect as of the date indicated therein shall be a cause for disqualification or rejection of the offer.

Proponents may submit the foregoing requirements starting 1 March to 5 March 2002. Only those who comply with the requirements will be invited to an investors' briefing on 6 March 2002.

Proponents are also advised that the written consent on the rehabilitation proposal of the closed bank's stockholders representing 2/3 of the outstanding capital stock is an essential requirement prior to any recommendation of any rehabilitation proposal to the PDIC Board of Directors and the Monetary Board. Such stockholder/s shall represent and warrant to the proponent/investor, immediately prior to the consummation of the sale of the shares to the proponent/investor, that they have legal and valid title to such shares, free and clear of any liens, claims, charges, or encumbrances of any kind and that the execution, delivery and performance by the stockholder/s of such agreement will constitute the legal, valid and binding obligation of the stockholders, enforceable in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable laws. If the same could not be submitted together with the rehabilitation proposal, an undertaking to submit the Agreement with said stockholders of the closed UDB not later than 20 March 2002, shall accompany the proposal.

Interested parties may submit the aforementioned requirements and the rehabilitation proposals addressed to The PDIC, Receiver of UDB, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila. Documents will be received at the Office of the Vice-President, Risk Management Center III, 2nd Floor, PDIC Building. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Sandra A. Diaz at telephone nos. 812-2342, and 818-0073 local 210. Deadline for submission of the rehab proposals is on 15 March 2002.

All offers submitted shall be evaluated accordingly. The PDIC and the committee that may be constituted for this purpose reserve the right to approve any proposal submitted, to negotiate with some but not all the potential acquirors, and to reject any or all offers.

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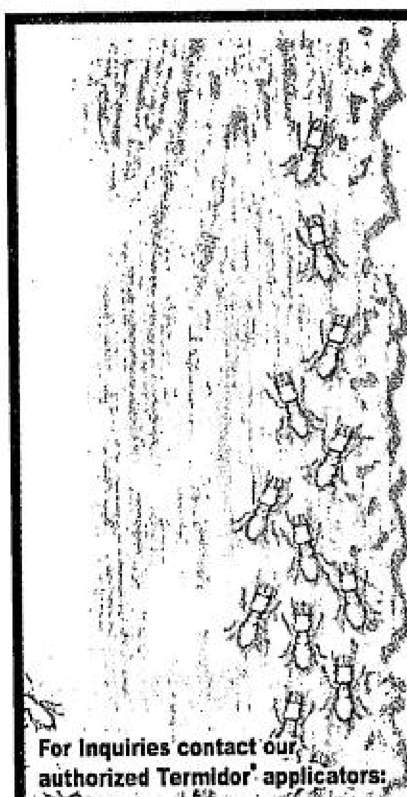

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer recently donated funds to the University of the Philippines, Diliman, for classroom and the library's English wing for the new College of Arts and Letters (CAL) building behind Bulwagang Rizal (formerly known as Faculty Center). Signing the memorandum of agreement are INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and dean of College of Arts and Letters Dr. Rose Yu. Looking over as witnesses are Dr. Jose Wendell Capili, associate dean for administration and development, Celine Madamba, INQUIRER's corporate relations manager, and Prof. Erwin Bautista, chair of the Department of European Languages of the UP College of Arts and Letters.

US NGOs lead fight for Basileños hearts

From page A1

dress the social component of the military campaign in Basilan, which is being handled by Task Groups Tornado and Thunder under Task Force Comet.

Tiglao said the DSWD had yet to finalize a budget for its activities in connection with the RP-US war games.

But Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, who accompanied the President to Zamboanga City yesterday, is checking on some areas there where Task Force Gentle Wind may also discharge its functions, he said.

Soliman is scheduled to brief the media this week regarding the programs to be undertaken by the task force.

Theater arts

The Americans in Basilan are themselves engaged in social work.

Lt. Col. David Maxwell, commander of the US 1st Special Forces Group, said they had launched the preparatory stage of a theater arts project aimed at teaching Basilan children aged 15 years and below the art of acting.

He said the project included the nightly showing of film adaptations of such classics as "The King and I."

Maxwell said the theater arts project was only one of many components of Balikatan 02-1. "We also engage in other productive activities focused on community building," he told the INQUIRER.

Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson, who is in charge of the nightly film showings, said the project would become an interactive learning process benefiting both Basilan residents and American soldiers.

He said the idea was "basically to share our culture with Filipinos and, at the same time, learn from them."

He also said teaching Basilan children was "an initial step to develop a good relationship with our neighbors here, and to maximize our time as well."

For the film showings, Johnson uses a video compact disc player and a wide-screen television set earlier brought to Basilan mainly for teleconferencing purposes.

But the audience now includes, apart from the targeted crowd, adults as well.

"You know, we need to provide more seats and popcorn," Johnson said jokingly.

The first films shown were "Shrek" and "Little Rascals," which, according to Johnson, provide "good examples" to children.

"They can use these to enhance their skills in the future, such as engaging in productive work like theater or producing their own play," he said.

Johnson noted that the theater arts project was an important undertaking that could be continued "with the help of local counterparts."

He said American soldiers wanted the children of Basilan to remember them not as a bunch of war-hungry people.

"I also want to leave something that children can remember about Americans once we leave the place—something worthwhile," he said.

Never again

With the uproar caused by their recent display of high-powered firearms at a Mindanao bank, the American troops have become "sensitive" to public opinion and are now strictly observing the terms of reference and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, Ambassador Jaime Yambao said.

"The Americans have apologized profusely over the gun-display incident. So it will never happen again, and it shouldn't happen again," Yambao, executive director of the VFA Commission (VFACom), told the INQUIRER.

So far, the VFACom has noted "no violation" by either US or Philippine troops. "Not one has deviated from the exercise plans," Yambao said.

He said the VFACom was strictly monitoring Balikatan 02-1 "to ensure that the military exercises are consistent with the intents and purposes of the law, and that both camps, the US and the Philippines, would learn from each other."

Yambao said, however, that the military exercises would not be "in full swing" until the first week of March.

"The other phase is still focused on preparations," he said.

For this reason, he said, the crew of the US Chinook that crashed into the sea Friday did not violate any rule in flying without their Filipino counterparts on board.

"The Chinook was merely transporting personnel and supplies as part of the preparation and not as part of the actual exercises," he pointed out.

Yambao said the VFACom had deployed personnel to monitor the military exercises at various sites in Mindanao.

He said that two VFACom officials had been detailed in Zamboanga, and that their jurisdiction also included Basilan.

VFACom offices will also be set up in Cebu and Basilan, he said.

Yambao, however, lamented the limited resources allotted to the VFACom.

He said P2 million had been provided for the monitoring of the exercises involving 660 US troops and 3,800 Filipino military personnel, but that he had asked the President to augment the budget.

With a report from Christine Herrera

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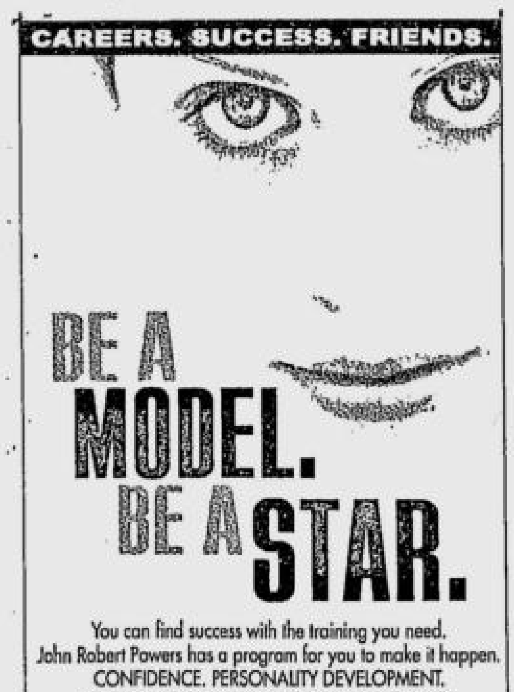
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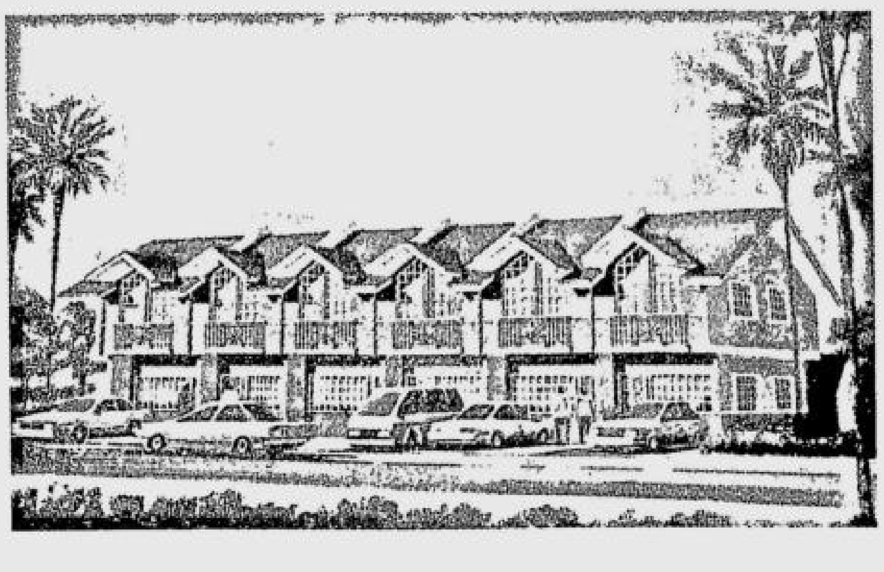

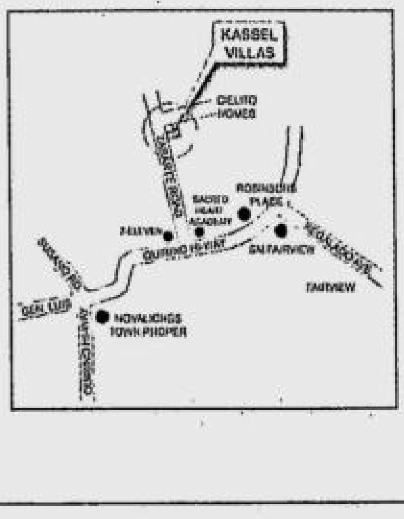

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High court junks Jinggoy petition

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday junked the petition filed by Jinggoy Estrada seeking to quash the plunder complaint filed against him by the Office of the Ombudsman in April last year.

In a full court decision, the high court also denied the young Estrada's plea to be allowed to post bail.

In denying both the motion to quash and plea for bail, the high court ruled that Jinggoy had failed to prove the wisdom of his petition.

"The petition is dismissed for failure to show that the respondent Sandiganbayan acted without or in excess of jurisdiction or with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction," the Supreme Court said.

The high court then advised the young Estrada, a former mayor of San Juan, to seek a legal remedy with the Sandigabayan.

"Upon proper motion of the petitioner, respondent Sandiganbayan should conduct hearings to determine if the evidence of petitioner's guilt is strong as to warrant the granting of bail to petitioner," the Supreme Court said.

The decision was written by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, and concurred in by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose Melo, Vicente Mendoza, Artemio Panganiban, Leonardo Quisumbing and Sabino de Leon Jr.

Those who dissented were Associate Justices Jose Vitug, Santiago Kapunan, Arturo Buena, Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. Associate Justice Antonio Carpio inhibited himself.

Earlier, the Sandiganbayan junked the young Estrada's motion for bail, which was anchored on medical reasons, "for lack of factual basis."

On Dec. 20, 2001, the court said Estrada's motion failed to establish that his medical condition "requires that he be confined at home and for that purpose that he be allowed to post bail."

The high court, for its part, ruled that it was not in a position to grant bail to Estrada.

The Supreme Court, however, stressed that the court could still hear his motion for bail since, this time, he was invoking that the evidence of guilt was not strong enough to warrant a preventive detention.

Since the records of the Sandiganbayan did not show that the "evidence on petitioner's guilt was presented before" it, the Supreme Court said the court ``should conduct hearings" upon "proper motion from the petitioner."

The high court's decision stemmed from a petition for review filed by Estrada to reverse a Sandiganbayan resolution on July 9, 2001.

The resolution had denied his "Motion to Quash and Suspend" and "Very Urgent Omnibus Motion."

The young Estrada's prayer to post bail was then set for hearing after the arraignment of all the accused in the plunder.

He, former President Joseph Estrada, lawyer Edward Serapio, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Yolanda Ricaforte, Delia Rajas, Eleuterio Tan and Alma Alfaro were charged on April 4, 2001 with plunder for alleged complicity in stealing more than P4 billion from the nation's coffers.

When the young Estrada moved for a reconsideration of the resolution, the anti-graft court subsequently denied it and proceeded to arraign him and the other accused.

He, however, refused to make his plea, prompting the court to enter a plea of "not guilty" for him.

Unperturbed, Estrada—who has been questioning the jurisdiction of the court and the validity of the charges filed against him—elevated the case to the high court.

In his petition for review, he claimed that the court erred for not declaring Republic Act No. 7080, the plunder law, as unconstitutional, thus allegedly denying him the equal protection of laws.

An appeal to the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on the industrial/commercial sector concerns on some provisions of R.A. 9136, Electric Power Industry Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

We represent the industrial/commercial sector of the Philippine Economy who are the dollar earners for this country, responsible for the influx of capital from within and from without, investments in infrastructure to promote generation of employment and therefrom improve the Filipino way of life and most of all the biggest consumer group in terms of energy consumption.

Long before this new Energy Law was drafted, we have been at the forefront of asking that we be given the "power to choose" the best alternative source of power or energy for our needs and the consuming sectors who are supposed to be the ultimate beneficiaries of reforms in the power industry.

There are provisions in R. A. 9136 and/or its Implementing Rules and Regulations which are constitutionally questionable which may jeopardize the implementation of the whole law unless removed, corrected or suspended for implementation.

Issue No. 1 IMPOSITION OF UNIVERSAL CHARGE ON ALL ELECTRICITY END-USERS
Our Position : Full government absorption of the liabilities of the National Power Corporation and qualified stranded costs of the distribution utilities so that the universal charge should not be imposed on electricity end-users.

Issue No. 2 RETAIL COMPETITION AND OPEN ACCESS
Our Position: In the interim, bilateral contracts between the National Power Corporation and bulk electricity end-users should be respected. NPC should be mandated to continue accepting applications for bulk power supply for end-users with an expected peak demand of at least one (1) megawatt.

Issue No. 3 NPC'S DISPOSAL OF SUBTRANSMISSION ASSETS
Our Position: The subtransmission assets of the National Power Corporation should be disposed of only to qualified distribution utilities. End-users who own subtransmission facilities should not be mandated to dispose of such assets to the distribution utilities.

Issue No. 4 RELIABILITY OF DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES
Our Position: Distribution utilities who cannot meet the requirements of the distribution code should not be made to own or operate subtransmission facilities.

Issue No. 5 DISTRIBUTION WHEELING CHARGES
Our Position: Distribution wheeling charges should be classified by voltage level and not by type of customer.

Issue No. 6 CROSS-SUBSIDIES
Our Position: All forms of cross-subsidies should be eliminated in accordance with the law to reflect the true cost of service.

We therefore appeal to the honorable members of congress to amend certain provisions of the law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations or suspend implementation of some provisions to consider our position. We also appeal to the honorable members of the energy regulatory commission to consider our position in its decisions on cases involving the distribution utilities.

Adopted this 22nd day of February 2002 by the following:

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MOVING rites by a Chinook chopper similar to the one that crashed Friday for the men who "left their homes for an important mission" and who paid the ultimate price. DENNIS SABANGAN

10 US soldiers in Chinook crash honored for heroism

From page A1

peoples to live in harmony and freedom."

In formation

After Villanueva's remarks, a moving ceremony followed, with 75 US servicemen in five units and 30 Filipino soldiers in two units standing in formation. Two of the units had gaps in the middle of their formation, representing the 10 men who died—Maj. Curtis Feistner, Capt. Bartt Owens, Chief Warrant Officer Jody Egnor, S/Sgt. Kerry Frith, S/Sgt. James Dorrity, S/Sgt. Bruce Rushforth Jr., Sgt. Jeremy Foshee, Sgt. Thomas Allison, M/Sgt. William McDaniel II and S/Sgt. Juan Ridout. The first eight were Army men based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky; the last two were para-rescuers based in Japan.

After an introductory prayer, an officer of the US Army's Echo Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, reported that eight of their members were not present. An officer of the US Air Force's 320th Special Tactics Squadron also told the adjutant that two of their men were absent.

After the report, the assembled units honored the colors of both the Philippines and the United States while the Philippine Air Force band played the national anthems of both countries.

Then the adjutant called the roll. The names of the 10 American servicemen who died in the accident were called out thrice. At one point, the adjutant's voice quavered while calling out the names. Then the band played "Taps." It has been the tradition of the US military since the American Civil War to play this song in honor of its servicemen who died in action.

The troops in the middle then moved to fill the gap left by their missing members. After the ranks had closed, the adjutant announced to the troops their order: to continue their mission in the Philippines to help in the fight against terrorism.

The order echoed a highlight of Villanueva's tribute, when he said: "These men left their homes for an important mission—to help a friend; these men died while fulfilling that mission."

Another memorial has been scheduled at Fort Campbell.

On display

A display in honor of the fallen American servicemen was also set up inside the hangar. The display was in the middle of 12 wreaths; 11 bore the names of the 10 servicemen and the number "47-1," tail-number of the ill-fated Chinook helicopter. The 12th wreath was also the biggest—an arrangement of white orchids—offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The display consisted of an aviator's flight helmet with night-vision goggles mounted on an M-4 carbine rifle. On each side was a pair of boots and a beret, one belonging to the US Army and the other to the US Air Force.

Below these was the banner of the "Wild Horse," the nickname given to the US Army's Echo Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. On the upper right hand was the banner of the "Night Stalkers," the moniker of the US Air Force's 320th Special Tactics Squadron.

The downed chopper was one of three that had been assigned to the Balikatan exercise. Yesterday, at around 5 p.m., two Black Hawk helicopters were unloaded from a C-17 US cargo plane at Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City. *With reports from Julie Alipala, AP, AFP*

Baby Salaam symbol . . .

From page A1

She was born with a large hole between her heart's two ventricles, or chambers. Her lungs were not receiving enough blood.

Palestinian doctors noticed she was turning blue and losing weight. They rushed her to a hospital in Jerusalem.

"She was bone and skin and that's it," said Eli Milgalter, an Israeli doctor who performed the surgery on Salaam's heart on Jan. 24.

The nuns raised nearly $11,000 to pay for the hospital costs; Milgalter refused payment for his service.

Milgalter considered it "special" that even with violence raging and divides widening, Salaam was saved by Palestinians, Christians and Israelis.

Yet, its rarity makes it bittersweet.

"She wouldn't have survived without this. Everybody had his share," he said.

"It shows that there are good people on both sides of the fence—and they don't rule anymore."

According to doctors, Salaam's recovery was an exceptional case in a cruel war that has seen babies killed on both sides.

Israeli children have been among the victims of Palestinian gunfire and bomb attacks, and Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli Army gunfire during demonstrations and riots.

The fighting has also prevented many Palestinians from getting advanced medical care in Israel.

Milgalter said that about 80 percent of the hospital's pediatric patients were Palestinians. Worse, he added, a string of checkpoints around Jerusalem was preventing many others from reaching the hospital from the West Bank.

Before the violence began in September 2000, Milgalter would pack medical gear into his car and head for a Palestinian hospital in east Jerusalem to treat Palestinian children. Some of the children also came to Hadassah Hospital in Jewish west Jerusalem.

Now the coordination has ended. Milgalter said he no longer felt safe making the journey.

"I wouldn't dare," he said. The barrier of conflict frustrates him.

"Within a 10-km radius of this hospital there is so much injustice . . . many political and security problems. But medical problems should be overcome. Children 5 km away cannot reach here to get proper medical treatment." AP

Pinay wins California lotto

From page A1

comfortable talking to reporters and quickly left after answering questions for a few minutes.

She said she waited "because I felt nervous. Every day, every night I could not sleep."

"She was really just too scared to come up," said Joan Wilson, California Lottery's chief executive officer who introduced Naguit during a press conference originally intended to give a symbolic check to a store owner who sold another of the winning tickets.

Naguit's ticket was bought at a 7-Eleven store in Montebello.

Wilson also said Naguit was in the process of getting a divorce, which could complicate her good luck. Because the proceedings are not final, her estranged husband could be entitled to half the winnings.

Naguit split the jackpot with a Tustin couple—Paul Briscoe, 49, and his wife Rose, 45—and a Half Moon Bay man, Andy Kampe.

Because she chose to receive her winnings in lump sum rather than annually over 26 years, her share of the jackpot was actually worth about $32 million. The federal government will take 27 percent of that off the top, lottery spokesperson Norma Minas said.

The jackpot is the largest single-state prize ever won. It was the fifth largest in multi-state games.

According to the Orange County Register, the odds of winning the jackpot were about one in 41 million.

The biggest lottery payout in US history was $363 million in May 2000 for The Big Game multi-state lottery. California's previous record jackpot was $141 million on June 23, 2001, won by a San Jose man. AP

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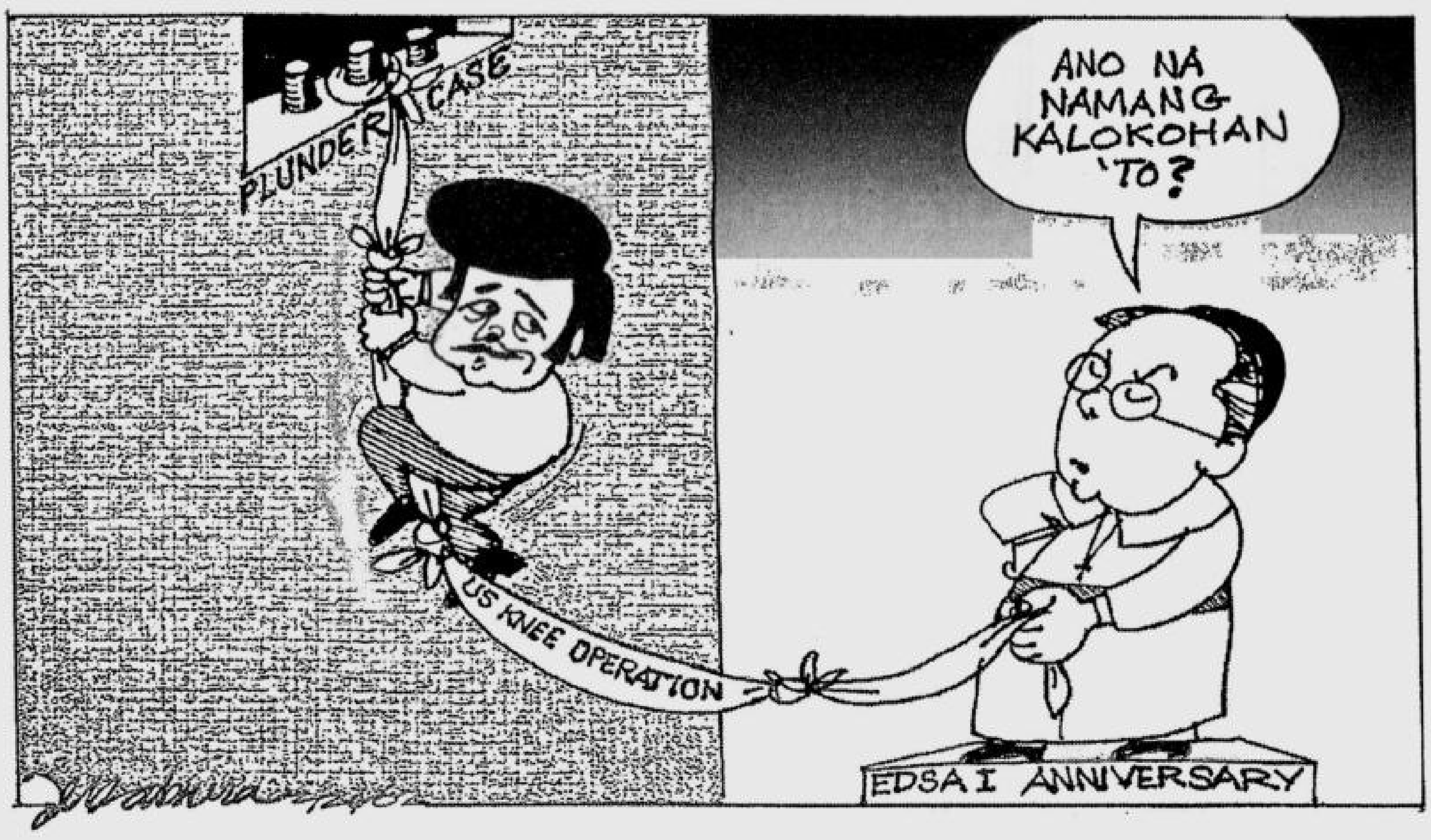

On the brink

EDITORIAL

ONE of the more fascinating—and frightening—revelations contained in the new book, "Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," by INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila is about how perilously close the nation came to being ruled by a military junta or being plunged into an orgy of violence.

Doronila recounts that just hours after the top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines marched to the Edsa Shrine to announce their withdrawal of support from then President Joseph Estrada, four senior generals met with the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, late into the night of Jan. 19 to try to convince him to withhold military support from Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "The presidency should not have been given to Gloria," Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, chief of the Philippine Air Force, was quoted by an unidentified source as telling Reyes. It would be best to hold snap elections "so we will all know who really has the support of the people," Defensor added. The proposal was lifted from Estrada's own offer of elections, which was apparently intended to buy him time and stave off his impending ouster from the presidency.

The chief of the Philippine Navy, Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, had an even more radical proposal. "Why don't we take power ourselves?" he suggested.

Those dangerous suggestions prompted Reyes' aide, Col. Victor Corpus, to butt in and remind the two senior officers that they were proposing something that was unconstitutional. If we did that, Corpus said, "we would be at the wrong end of People Power."

The meeting ended when Reyes declared: "We stay constitutional." But it did not stop Defensor and Wong from trying again. The next day at 9 a.m., they were back, urging the AFP chief of staff to reconsider his decision. Reyes had to cut them off with the reminder that they had discussed the idea the night before. Then he dismissed them with an implied dare, "It's up to you."

The constitutionality of the military's decision to withdraw its support from Estrada will long be debated, but there is no question that in supporting Ms Macapagal the AFP upheld the constitutional mode of succession. With the President unable to govern, the Vice President had to take over the reins of government. To their eternal credit, Reyes and the other generals, including the chief of the Philippine Army, Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, made sure that would come to pass.

Defensor has written the INQUIRER to say Doronila's account was full of inaccuracies and that his sources were just out to make the members of his class (PMA 1969) look like the bad guys and "make others the heroes." However, he did not point out the inaccuracies or deny outright the substance of the story. So we can assume that Doronila at least captured the big picture.

The thought of what might have been can be scary. Here we had the commanders of two of the three major services—Defensor and Wong—proposing a power grab, with the support of the vice chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, and the chief of the Southern Command, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling. Had they prevailed, there could have been hell to pay. Military rule would have been the last thing the people who gathered at Edsa would accept. To impose its will, the military would have had to fight all the forces from left to right of the political spectrum that had coalesced in a mass movement to topple Estrada. Edsa could have been turned into Tienanmen Square.

Defensor, Wong and their allies were inviting the AFP to embark upon an illegal, reckless and potentially violent adventure. The power grab that they proposed would have trashed the Constitution and perhaps left hundreds even thousands dead. They toyed with treason, but they didn't even have to do 30 push-ups like the putschists during the time of President Corazon Aquino. Wong and Calimlim have since retired quietly. But Defensor remains in command of the PAF, even though Ms Macapagal is said to have once expressed her uneasiness with him, and Camiling has moved up to vice chief of staff.

In an organization where loyalty and discipline are drilled into everyone's head, it's rather curious that such transgressions are so easily forgiven and forgotten. Maybe this is the reason some officers are getting bolder. (Nobody so much as whispered anything about grabbing power during Edsa I.) When will we ever learn?

Citizen fights back, sues solon for graft

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT can you do to a member of Congress who abuses his authority, power and influence to deprive an ordinary citizen of his property? You cannot file a complaint with the ethics committee because Congress is an old boys' club that protects its own. They will only throw the complaint away or freeze it. When you file a case in court, the congressman can use his influence to either thwart justice or delay it. You can't take the law into your own hands because that is a crime. You can file a complaint with the Ombudsman but cases move so slowly there. Besides, officials and employees of the Office of the Ombudsman are not immune to the influence of congressmen.

Take the case of this ordinary citizen, Mark Anthony A. Purisima who, with his partner, bought in 1998 from the Philippine Veterans Bank for P7.1 million, a foreclosed three-story building on a 519 sq. m. lot in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Although the property has been paid in full, the PVB refuses to sign the deed of sale to the property until now. Why? Because, according to Purisima in his affidavit-complaint, Rep. Harry Angping of Manila conspired with certain officials of the bank to deny him the property he bought. Purisima said the congressman wanted to buy the property for himself.

On June 21, 1999, according to Purisima's affidavit, lawyer Florencio Sioson, chief operating officer and board secretary of the PVB, met with him and offered to return the payments with interest "so the property can then be sold to no other than the Honorable Congressman" (Angping).

Again, on Dec. 12, 2001, Purisima's affidavit continued, a certain lawyer Maximo Amurao relayed in a telephone conversation "the offer of Congressman Angping to buy the property from Purisima and his partner for P10 million." Purisima said he rejected the offer as it was "anomalous in character and even criminal in nature, because the offer came from a public servant who had obviously taken an interest over the property that was already sold to" Purisima and his partner.

Angping denied he is interested in the property when I bumped into him recently at the Sulo Hotel. He said if Purisima will only pay the 13 tenants in the building P100,000 each, the case can be settled.

The tenants, by the way, have already been ordered on Sept. 28, 1998, by the Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 15, to vacate the premises and pay the back rentals they have accumulated. They are constituents of Angping.

The tenants appealed to the Regional Trial Court of Manila which affirmed the decision. The tenants then elevated the case to the Court of Appeals which dismissed the appeal and remanded the case to the RTC for execution.

During the execution of the decision, Purisima's affidavit said, "Congressman Angping forestalled the sheriffs from enforcing the decision. He also prevented the Western Police District from deploying policemen to assist the sheriffs." These acts were admitted by "Angping himself in his testimony during the hearing on July 13, 1999 at Branch 2 of the RTC Manila."

On June 2, 1999, Purisima continued, Sioson of the PVB, ordered the bank's lawyers who were successfully handling the said case "to desist from further representing the bank and appointed a new counsel...to continue with the case." Purisima, the buyer of the property, was not informed and the bank's legal department was not consulted about the changes.

The conspiracy between the congressman and bank official became clear, the affidavit continued, when Angping himself admitted in open court on July 13, 1999, "that he had breakfast at Edsa Shangri-la with Judge Juan C. Nabong of the RTC Manila Branch 32, to convince the latter to assist his constituents in their pending ejectment case. The Honorable Congressman also admitted having gone to Taipei with the bank's chair, Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo to discuss the case. The lawmaker likewise admitted having lunch with Sioson at the Century Park Sheraton to convince the latter to assist him and his constituents with the ongoing case. According to the congressman, the two bank officials assured him that they will extend all the necessary assistance to him and his constituents. The Honorable Congressman further testified that he sent a letter to the two mentioned bank officials thanking them for their assured assistance and their recognition of the preferential rights of his constituents."

To make a long story short, after many motions, petitions and appeals, the Supreme Court on Sept. 20, 2000, ruled with finality denying the two motions for reconsideration of the tenants and upheld the decisions of the lower courts ejecting the tenants.

On Jan. 24, 2001, the PVB wrote a letter offering to proceed with the execution of the deed of absolute sale, as the case with the Supreme Court had been decided with finality. However, it wanted the buyers to pay another P77,418.77 as balance of the board-approved purchase price. The buyers objected, "because the said amount represents merely documentation and notarial fees and does not form part of the PVB Board-approved purchase price. Obviously, (the demand) was a mere subterfuge to further delay the execution of the deed of sale and to escape liability."

Purisima filed criminal charges with the Ombudsman against Angping, De Ocampo and Sioson for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. The complaint was received by the Ombudsman on Jan. 21, 2002.

Sacred

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"THE CHURCH is for praying, just as the kitchen is for cooking." Well, not if the cook keeps inviting the members of the house to use the kitchen to drink, to carouse and to plot to kick out the temporary owner of the house. Not if the cook keeps insisting the kitchen is a separate kingdom to which he has absolute sway. Not if the cook serves bad food, while passing it off as haute cuisine.

The syllogism above was used by Socrates Villegas, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Manila, to defend his and Jaime Cardinal Sin's decision to "keep out politics" from the Edsa Shrine during the 16th anniversary of the first people power. What can one say? Villegas may be an auxiliary bishop but he is no Socrates, a philosopher I particularly admire, one who, if I remember right, agreed to be executed for his beliefs. Showing in the process that philosophy and ethics, morality and politics, the spiritual and practical life, are not separate and mutually exclusive enclaves but are the two sides of the same coin.

If Edsa were a place for prayer and not for politics, why did Sin issue the call for the people to flock there to protect the military rebels who had been trapped in Camp Aguinaldo? Why did Sin issue another call for the people to flock there to protest the Senate decision not to open the second envelope during the impeachment trial? Arguably, he asked the people to go there to pray. But far more patently, he asked the people to go there to rally behind a beleaguered nation. Arguably, he asked the people to go there to perform a religious duty. But far more patently, he asked the people to go there to exercise a political act.

I do not recall during the first Edsa seeing only Sin invoking God's grace upon this country. Cory of course was not there, she was in the Visayas. But I recall that Butz Aquino was there—he was the other one who called for "people power." I recall that Juan Ponce Enrile, Fidel Ramos and the other members of RAM were there. I recall that various political figures, who later came to populate Cory's government, were there. I do not recall that they spent their time on the stage reeking of piety, although they most certainly reeked of platitudes. If many of them invoked anything, it was only God's grace upon themselves—which they divinely or devilishly got.

I do not recall during the second Edsa seeing only Sin making the heavens weep with his supplications. Though truly he was a powerful figure on the stage in spite of—or probably because of—being much emaciated by disease, a larger-than-life figure battling adversity and rising victoriously over it. But there were others. There were Cory and Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the last having discovered the virtue of courage when there was nothing left to be courageous about. There were the senators and congressmen who had taken part, centrally or marginally in the effort to impeach Erap, resplendent in the impending triumph, shoving the civil society activists who had worked heroically to excise another tyranny from this country to the fringes of the stage. I do not recall that they spent their time on the stage reeking of prayer, though they most certainly reeked of *kabaduyan*. If many of them made anything weep, it was only the audience by their display of sheer opportunism.

Edsa is prayer, but it is also politics. Indeed, it is politics both of the wondrous and benighted kind. It is the politics of heroism and transcendence on one hand, and it is the politics of opportunism and covetousness on the other. The politics of a people rising to extraordinary heights to bring back God's light on this earth. The politics of people sinking to their natural level to bring God's favor upon themselves.

The archdiocese of Manila's decision to ban politics from Edsa is politics. And it is politics of the benighted sort. The kind of politics that has hounded the two Edsas from the start, the kind of politics that has dominated the two Edsas in the end. It is an act of appropriating the spirit of Edsa, which is in its truest sense, people power, in the guise of reappropriating the body of Edsa, which is the Edsa Shrine. For all their legal documents showing proof of ownership, the Edsa Shrine no more belongs to the Catholic Church than the Rizal statue at the Luneta Park belongs to the city of Manila. The bishops may not do with it as they will. The Edsa Shrine is not just a place, it is a state of mind. It is a symbol of a struggle against tyranny. Villegas and Sin's decision to cleanse it of politics does not capture the struggle, it captures only the tyranny.

Villegas says he will not allow people to defile the sacredness of the Edsa Shrine. He forgets that what makes the Shrine sacred are not the religious icons that teem there or the unctuous voices that are raised to heaven during Masses there. At that, there is more sacredness in the hushed silence that enfolds the place on ordinary days as dusk falls and the MRT zips through it like a whisper. He forgets that what makes the Shrine sacred are the voices that were raised there in fear and courage, in protest and prayer, in victory and humility, by a people transformed. He forgets that what makes the Shrine sacred is the blood of martyrs that has spilled on this earth, which, like a swollen river tumbling into the sea, has driven this people again and again to tumble into the Shrine like a flood. He forgets that what makes the Shrine sacred is the transcendent spirit that, expressed in the sublime form in people power, has come to signify the voice of God itself.

Last I looked, the concept was still "Vox populi, vox Dei"—the voice of the people is the voice of God. It was not "Vox Soci, vox Dei."

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Running out of arguments

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CRASH of a US military Chinook helicopter into waters off Southern Negros Oriental last Friday, killing 10 American soldiers, has kicked off speculations that the aircraft was fired upon by hostile forces. This speculation illustrates the extent to which opponents of the joint RP-US Balikatan military exercises have resorted to the ridiculous to demonize the exercises.

If we are to believe this speculation, it means that terrorists have acquired underwater surface-to-air missiles fired by submarines prowling the waters between Negros Oriental and Bohol, or that the Chinooks are so accident-prone that the Abu Sayyaf need not worry about American military equipment because they would just blow up of their own accord.

The helicopter crashed while ferrying supplies and special forces troops from Zamboanga City to Mactan and was part of the training exercises. The crash prompted Left-wing members of Congress to call for an investigation into whether the flight of the helicopter violated the Visiting Forces Agreement. One member of Congress said the VFA provides that all training missions be "bilateral," interpreted to mean that the exercises should be participated in by both Filipino and American soldiers. It was pointed out that since there were no Filipinos in the aircraft, ergo the VFA was breached.

This member of Congress raised further silly questions, such as were the helicopters allowed to fly over our airspace of their own accord. True, the exercises are bilateral, but a diligent search of the VFA does not yield any provision that for every US aircraft, vehicle jeep, or armored vehicles used in the exercises, there should be counterpart Filipino soldiers in each vehicle.

The reality of joint military exercises anywhere in the world, not excluding in the Philippines, is that there is more flexibility on operations in the field. It is extremely foolish to pair off soldiers of different nationalities doing military exercises just to show that national sovereignty of countries hosting exercises is respected. It never happens that way, and for the critics to be demanding such parity indicates that they are running out of arguments to oppose the exercises.

Ten American soldiers have already died in the exercises, and Filipino soldiers have not taken casualties. The Americans have put their lives on the line to help Filipinos crush the Abu Sayyaf, part of the al-Qaida terrorist network, and here we are nitpicking over imagined violations of the VFA.

What can Filipino soldiers really do with handling advanced and hi-tech American weapons and facilities, even if they are on board helicopters or armored personnel carriers? Their presence, unless it is for the purpose of receiving instructions on how to use these weapons, is sheer tokenism. They are just passengers and in war exercises and in combat, especially, it is irksome to remind the Americans during operations that they are being closely watched for possible violations of the VFA.

For example, imagine if we supply our soldiers with pocket-sized copies of the VFA and the Philippine Constitution for them to refer to while holding skirmishes in the field to ensure that our Constitution and sovereignty are respected by the American special forces. When our soldiers are fired at in their incursions into Abu Sayyaf territory, the first thing that comes into their mind is not whether the VFA has been violated but to fire back and crush the enemy.

During the bombing campaign last December in Afghanistan by the United States and its allies, the US forces were allowed by Pakistan to fly over Pakistani territory from their jump positions—the US aircraft carriers and naval vessels in the Arabian Sea—President Pervez Musharraf was not touchy about violations of Pakistani sovereignty, and no one can say he is an American lackey.

In the Chinook crash, the Americans have shed blood, and they are taking the casualties in stride as part of the game. But they are not taking their casualties sitting down. To them, the exercises are deadly serious business with an objective—to help Filipinos eliminate the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist group linked to al-Qaida.

Reporters covering the exercises are impressed over the array of hi-tech weapons displayed by the Americans. Some of them have been tested in Afghanistan and if there is a singular factor that was responsible for the swift collapse of the Taliban regime, it was the advanced weaponry. The new American weapons are focused and their sensors can locate hidden bodies and minimize civilian casualties, through surgical exercises.

The American equipment were so effective in Afghanistan that some of their bombs sought and penetrated Taliban forces inside the caves in the Afghan mountains. These caves were impregnable and protected Afghan guerrillas fighting the Russians a decade ago. The high-tech weapons reduced these caves into bombs.

Filipino soldiers say that our weaponry is 20 years behind that of the Americans. They hope that within a few years, they can gain expertise in using these weapons—assuming that we can acquire them more readily after the exercises. In the Afghanistan campaign, the European allies of the United States discovered—to their dismay—that the US weapons technology is far ahead of theirs, and yet European armies have already a high level of technology. We are not talking this time of sovereignty—because it is not being violated. We are talking about military capacity to crush rebellions that curtail our domestic sovereignty.

More Spanish than we think

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE DAY is long past when TV and movie villains almost always spoke with a strong Castilian accent.

But though the days of Spanish villainy in Pinoy popular culture are clearly over, it still comes as a surprise to many that in Spain the Philippines and Filipinos are looked upon with fondness. The first time I met Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja, he told us that when he paid a courtesy call on King Juan Carlos, the King bade him to make a special effort to get President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to make a state visit to Spain. "The Philippines holds a very special place in our hearts," the ambassador said. "In our eyes, you are the last bastion of Spanish influence in Asia."

A year into his stay here, though, Ambassador Pantoja confessed that he "rather overestimated" the remaining Spanish influence on local culture. For one thing, he came here expecting more people to be speaking—or at least able to understand—Spanish!

That may be the reason Ambassador Pantoja worked to bring "Bravo Zarzuela!" to the CCP stage last week. A revue of Spanish dances, songs and scenes from rural life, it was directed by no less than the ambassador himself. But while a showcase of Spanish culture, "Bravo Zarzuela!" was also, in the ambassador's words, "a fusion of our two cultures." For also showcased in the program was Filipino talent.

* * *

INDEED, "Bravo Zarzuela!" was a true collaborative endeavor. The PPO was under the baton of Spanish conductor Jose Antonio Torres while the dancers worked with choreographer Alberto Portillo. Joining the Spanish lead singers soprano Luisa Torres, tenor Jose Antonio Moreno and baritone Jorge Florenza were coloratura soprano Rachelle Gerodias and bass baritone Ronaldo Abarquez, as well as the Philippine Normal University Chorale. Spanish solo dancers Maria Jose Martin Ramirez, Eva Maria Coelho, Alfonso Gonzalez Rodriguez and Avelino Cazallo Gonzalez, led the young troupe of dancers from the Philippine Ballet Theater, the Fundacion Centro Flamenco and other dance companies and studios.

Most of the audience, I would guess, had come expecting flamencos and matador moves. But as we would soon discover, there is more to Spanish dance and music than these clichés of the tourist scene.

Another discovery: Filipino dance owes much more to Spain than we think. A dance making use of seashells was strongly reminiscent of the "maglalatik." And at the fiesta scene, what else would we see but the floral arches that are a mainstay of the fiesta scenes of the lowlands?

"Bravo Zarzuela!" then, while ostensibly a showcase of Spanish dance and song, is really also about Philippine culture and its antecedents. And if only for illustrating how strong are the enduring ties between our two countries, then "Bravo Zarzuela!" was well worth the effort of mounting it and watching it.

* * *

HAVING gotten up at three that morning, I couldn't help but nod off during the long, bumpy drive from Tacloban. When the pick-up finally came to a stop, I found myself in the midst of rice fields and in front of a small concrete building.

This was the building of the Magna-ul Irrigators Association in Barangay Magnangoy in Hilongos, Leyte, that would be the first of a series of structures we would be inaugurating that day. I was there to represent Abanse! Pinay, through whose representation the funds for the renovation of the building, including the construction of a kitchen in the back, and the other centers to be inaugurated that day, had been released.

Among the welcomers seated in front of the small building were Laureen Dumaguing, executive director of the Welfare Foundation and chapter coordinator for Abanse! Pinay; Tessie Banaynal Fernandez, chair of Lihok Pilipina and Bantay Banay; Crispulo Truya, president of the Welfare Foundation; and barangay officials and members of the association. Later in the morning, we were joined by Esperanza Samaco, DPWH district engineer, Rep. Carmen Cari and Gov. Matin Petilla.

As soon as the ceremonies were over, we drove to the Hilongos town proper, for the inauguration of the Women's Center followed by a sumptuous lunch and a short program at the town gym.

Then, while Governor Petilla and Congresswoman Cari proceeded to Ormoc, Laureen and I drove on to Mahaplag, where we were the guests for the opening of the Women's Livelihood Training Center managed by the Gumamela Women's Association. Here I met Mahaplag Mayor Violeta Landia, a physician who returned to her hometown to serve her town mates only to land smack center in local politics.

* * *

FORTIFIED by the juicy lechon, sweet moron and other delicacies, we then drove the short distance to Baybay, hometown of the governor and the congresswoman who are sisters and members of the prominent Veloso clan of Leyte politics.

In Baybay we took part in the final inauguration of the day, that of the Women and Children's Crisis Center building, to be managed jointly by the local social welfare officer as well as the Bantay Banay Inter-agency Committee of Baybay. The Center in Baybay was the biggest and most attractive of the structures inaugurated that day, and with the support of Baybay Mayor Jose Carlos Cari and the local government, I'm confident it will remain that way for many years to serve women and children of Baybay with special needs. Many thanks to Laureen, to Governor Petilla and Congresswoman Cari, who even brought me to the house of a cousin who was celebrating her birthday, for more Leytena hospitality.

The friars in Rizal and Lopez-Jaena's eyes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE RIZAL Room at the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University are photographs of the Ateneo at the time of Jose Rizal, an honor card of Rizal, calling cards of people he met, a copy of La Solidaridad and other relics that bring today's generation closer to a national hero who seems so distant in time, life and example.

In this room there are two pieces of sculpture that illustrate the wide gap between Rizal's thinking as a boy and that of an adult. In the center of the room, naturally, is a replica of a statuette that the young Rizal carved out of soft *batikuling* wood when he was a student at the Ateneo Municipal—this is a statuette of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Rather crude, flat, but competent for a boy. The Sacred Heart illustrates Rizal's religious fervor when he was a Sodalist at the Ateneo. This was long before his so-called "shipwreck of faith." It is said that this statuette was brought to Rizal's death cell in Fort Santiago by the Jesuits in the hope that it could rekindle the embers of his juvenile faith, but then the adult, the mature Rizal, was not impressed.

In the same room though not in the same display case, is another statue of a religious nature, but this time Rizal's mood has turned 360 degrees. This depicts a hefty friar, identified by his tonsure, habit with a cowl and a belt. The friar holds on his right hand a tray with a wine bottle and a glass, carved on his belly is a medallion with the silhouette of a woman which the wicked presume was someone named "Rosario." At the good friar's feet, a bulging sack which we again presume contains money. While Rizal has carved out "*Orate fratres* (Pray brothers)!" on its base, we are given more than a hint into the satirical sculpture's title. For some strange reason people always refer to this work of Rizal as "Fray Botod" or the fat friar described in words by Graciano Lopez-Jaena. These two pieces of sculpture led me one day to rethink what I have learned and taught about Spanish friars in the colonial Philippines.

Who is Botod? Lopez-Jaena asks in his rather long sketch. "Look at him, there he goes, walking on the plaza, that chubby friar talking with a woman at the foot of the *talisay* tree...Fray Botod is not his proper name or his family name. Botod means pot-bellied." Lopez-Jaena continues his description:

"...Fur seal with a moustache...short stature; bloated face forming a disk like a full moon, round cheekbones, thick prominent lips, small eyes...large reddish nose, with flaring nostrils...hair the color of maize, the crown like a coconut shell...depressed and wrinkled forehead."

You finish reading that only to realize Lopez-Jaena is just getting started with the friar's physical attributes. His character is worse, "...gluttonous...a usurer, worse than a Jewish money lender, fond of women...Fray Botod is a well-fed pig who eats, drinks, sleeps and thinks of nothing else but to satisfy his carnal appetite."

Those who read Lopez-Jaena in the late 19th century got a very negative picture of the friar. The funny thing is that many students in our time made to read Lopez-Jaena take the description literally, rarely asking ourselves: Is Fray Botod for real? In our time we still encounter a handful of Spanish friars who don't fit the above description. Do we ever ask ourselves how truthful are the anti-friar accounts written by Filipino heroes? Or maybe ask how much of it is truth or propaganda?

Rizal in his "Noli Me Tangere" describes Maria Clara and friends wearing bathing skirts that suggest the gracious curves of their thighs and, in those proper and sexually repressed times, much more. Unknown to them, Fray Salvi is hiding in the bushes peeking at them, looking at their bare arms, their loose hair, their graceful necks, ending in a suggestion of a bosom. The diminutive rosy feet playing in the water aroused strange sensations and feelings in his impoverished, starved being and made him dream new visions in his fevered mind. Read the uncensored version of the "Noli" and you will find much more. The villain in the "Noli" is not the Franciscan Padre Damaso, but the Dominican Padre Salvi because the agrarian dispute that involved the Rizal family were with the Dominicans. One has to know Rizal's life in order to put his novels in context.

Mention Marcelo H. del Pilar and you associate him with "La Frailocracia en Filipinas" or "Soberania Monacal" or the much anthologized "Dasalan at tocsohan." When rendered into English, the word monastic crops up and I could not distinguish a monk from a friar from a priest until for four years I was a Benedictine monk and had to explain that I was not a friar nor did my scholarship suffer because of my religious vows.

Now on our second week of Lent, I started to wonder why friars are so reviled and despised in literature and history. Is our negative mental picture of friars actually a caricature masterfully painted in our hearts and minds by the propagandists of the late 19th century: Rizal, Lopez-Jaena, Del Pilar, et al.? Now that we have long passed the centennial of our declaration of independence in 1898, can we at least attempt to look back at the friars...the villains in our national history and ask ourselves, are we being fair? A century after Spain left, maybe we can stop confusing fact with appearance, avoid emotion and look at the facts.

(More on Friday)

* * *

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Serendipity

HIGH BLOOD

Rafael T. David

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

ARE you a believer of the saying, "The right time and the right place"? I am because it happened to me. It opened doors and good breaks that led to my successful career.

It was in the late '60s and I was just out of college and still wet behind the ears. Every day, I would go through the dailies' classified ads for job openings and respond to any ad that did not require any work experience. A blind ad requiring an engineering aide that I responded to got me a telegram invitation for an interview. The telegram stated only the time, date, telephone number and address of the interview. The interview was scheduled three days after receipt and that was Wednesday at 8 a.m. in Quezon City. I marked it a red letter day. The next day, I surveyed the venue of the interview to ensure getting there on time. Tuesday afternoon, we received the sad news of the death of a close family friend who had also migrated to Manila like us from our hometown, Bugasong, Antique. The wake was at a funeral parlor in Manila and burial was on the next day. It was important for me to attend the wake because his children were childhood friends and it would be a chance to see old town mates. I decided to attend the wake and brought the documents needed for the interview in a clutch bag filled with the usual toiletries. I would start for the interview from there. I saw many familiar faces at the wake and the usual hometown news filled the hours. At 1 a.m. I excused myself and looked for a corner to sleep. I requested one of my town mates to wake me up at 5 a.m., just enough time to prepare and get to the interview.

When I arrived at 5:30 a.m. at the venue, I was flabbergasted because it was a well-known construction company specializing in land development. In front was a high imposing steel gate and I went directly to the peephole, introduced myself and showed the security guard the telegram. The guard was surprised because I was very early but I explained to him my previous itinerary and he invited me in and offered his flat-flavored coffee. I was reading a newspaper bought on my way and sipping coffee when a trailer loaded with a bulldozer was blowing its horn. After a while arguments were heard between the guard and the trailer driver. The guard did not permit the trailer to go out because the gate pass and travel way bill were not signed by the shop superintendent. The guard stood firm and the driver parked the trailer back in the shop. The driver went inside the guardhouse and sat beside me. He was a talkative old man who, without any introduction, explained all he knew about heavy equipment. He even explained what the bulldozer loaded in the trailer was. He explained that it was the latest model of the Caterpillar Bulldozer series D7-E, articulated blade, sharp cutting edges, direct starting, power steering and with two rippers at the back. He pointed to another old model Caterpillar Bulldozer D7-3T, a mechanical type, cable gantry-controlled blades and very hard to operate. The litany of names, models and uses of other equipment in the shop were mentioned and were absorbed in my memory bank.

At quarter to seven a big blue car stopped at the gate. The guard went out, saluted the occupant and opened the gate. The car window rolled down and the occupant asked the guard who I was and asked if the newspaper was delivered. The guard introduced me and I respectfully greeted him "Good morning sir," and offered him my newspaper. He asked of the position I was applying for and I told him about it and the time of the interview. He asked how long I was there and I told him since 5:30 a.m. He smiled, took my newspaper and invited me to wait in his office. I agreed and rode with him to his office because it would be rude to refuse an offer. His office was very spacious and the desk sign mentioned his name and his title as the president. I was impressed because he was the president and yet the earliest to report for work. He instructed me to plug the coffee kettle and started asking about my age, school and engineering degree. He inquired if I had work experience and I said no. He rose from his chair, went to the window, opened the venetian blind and called me. He pointed to the equipment on top of the trailer and asked me what it was. My memory came to the rescue and I correctly identified it as a bulldozer, Caterpillar D7-E model. He asked what a D7-E model meant. I told to him the features and capabilities of the bulldozer just as the trailer driver had told me a while earlier. He followed up his queries and pointed to other equipment in the shop. He was surprised to hear that I could identify all of them and even some of their features. He asked me where I learned these things and to extricate myself from an embarrassing situation, I told him a white lie that I read construction and earth-moving magazines. He was impressed with my knowledge of earth moving equipment and ordered me to prepare the coffee for both of us. It was my third cup of coffee but who could refuse a future boss? At 7 o'clock employees started to arrive. He called for the engineering manager and introduced me as the applicant for the advertised engineering aide position. He instructed the engineering manager to close the interview and accept me for the position. He further gave instructions that instead of assigning me to the Engineering Department, I should be assigned temporarily to the Construction Department and sent to Laguna at their newly started project. The construction manager was summoned and told of the arrangement. He was ordered to assign me to be in-charge of the heavy equipment operation maintenance and timekeeping. He asked me if I was ready to be deployed to Laguna and without hesitation I said yes. He called the administration and finance manager to prepare my appointment and advance my half month salary because I would be sent to their Laguna project.

Everything went like a whirlwind that at 10:30 that same morning I had my appointment paper, advance salary and was on my way to Laguna. I reported back to the president, thanked him and pledged my loyalty and dedication. I was instructed to ride in the trailer that would bring the bulldozer to Laguna. Although I had only the clothes on my back, I went to the project very happy.

Because of the way I was hired, I became the talk of the whole company. They believed that I was the protégé of the president and all company employees were very nice to me. In the job site I tried hard to learn my job and minded my own business. Whenever the president visited the project site he would always look for me and ask about the work. After more than three months, the assistant project engineer resigned because his immigration application to Canada was approved. The president ordered my promotion to the vacated position. My salary was increased more than double and my work status became monthly instead of daily. All the projects that I was assigned were completed according to schedule and all were profitable. My promotions were all phenomenal and the talk about my being close to the president persisted up to the time I left the company two years later. I never attempted to quash those rumors up to this time.

Rafael T. David is chair of the Filipino Community in Yanbu (Filcoyan).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Nationalism under attack

THERE is a long and intense tradition of anti-US aggression and intervention in Philippine art and literature from which the artists and writers today can draw lessons and inspiration, especially in the midst of renewed American offensive against Philippine sovereignty.

The so-called "seditious" plays of Juan Abad and Aurelio Tolentino in the early 1900s mark the beginning of this patriotic art and literary tradition as it coincided with the Filipino-American War—that bloody war that cost the lives of almost a million Filipinos and paved the way for the long-drawn history of US colonial and neocolonial rule. At the height of direct American colonization and notwithstanding the range of cultural means by which the Americans cunningly justified their imperial dominance, writers like Jose Corazon de Jesus (with his nationalist anthem "Bayan Ko") and Maximo Kalaw persisted in offering their genius to the cause of genuine independence.

In the 1960s, the works of novel[illegible] poet Amado V. Hernandez like "Ibong Mandaragit" and "Kung Tuyo Na ang Luha Mo, Aking Bayan" inspired a generation caught in the tumult and passion of resurgent nationalism and militant struggle. Not even martial law in the 1970s could completely silence the tide of anti-US interventionism, as films that tackled this theme such as Lupita Kashiwahara's "Minsa'y May Isang Gamu-gamo" made their way into the mainstream.

The years of mass campaigns to end the US military presence in the Philippines which successfully culminated in 1991 ushered in the flowering of various forms of art and literature—from rock operas to social realist paintings—with the singular purpose of popularizing the anti-US bases campaign line. Likewise, the movement to junk the Visiting Forces Agreement (which was nonetheless approved in the Senate in 1999) saw the dynamic commitment of artists and writers.

The current efforts of the United States to bring its military adventure to the Philippines through the so-called Balikatan exercises and the Macapagal administration's barefaced acceptance of foreign intrusion in the name of anti-terrorism, pose yet another challenge for the artists and writers. Their active involvement in the growing mass struggle is especially significant in exposing the deceptions spread by the government in reinforcing the culture of subservience and anti-nationalism.

Indeed, the spirit of nationalism is under attack. Already, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has swung from one extreme, twisted definition of nationalism to another in her attempt to institutionalize colonial public opinion: first as an anti-social sympathy for terrorists and second, as pride in extending help to foreign invaders.

It is this kind of demagoguery that the committed segment of the artists and writers together with every patriotic Filipino must urgently unite against.

—JULIE PO for Artista Laban sa Interbensyon at Para sa Soberanya, 65 10th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

LETTERS

Driving and watching TV is very dangerous

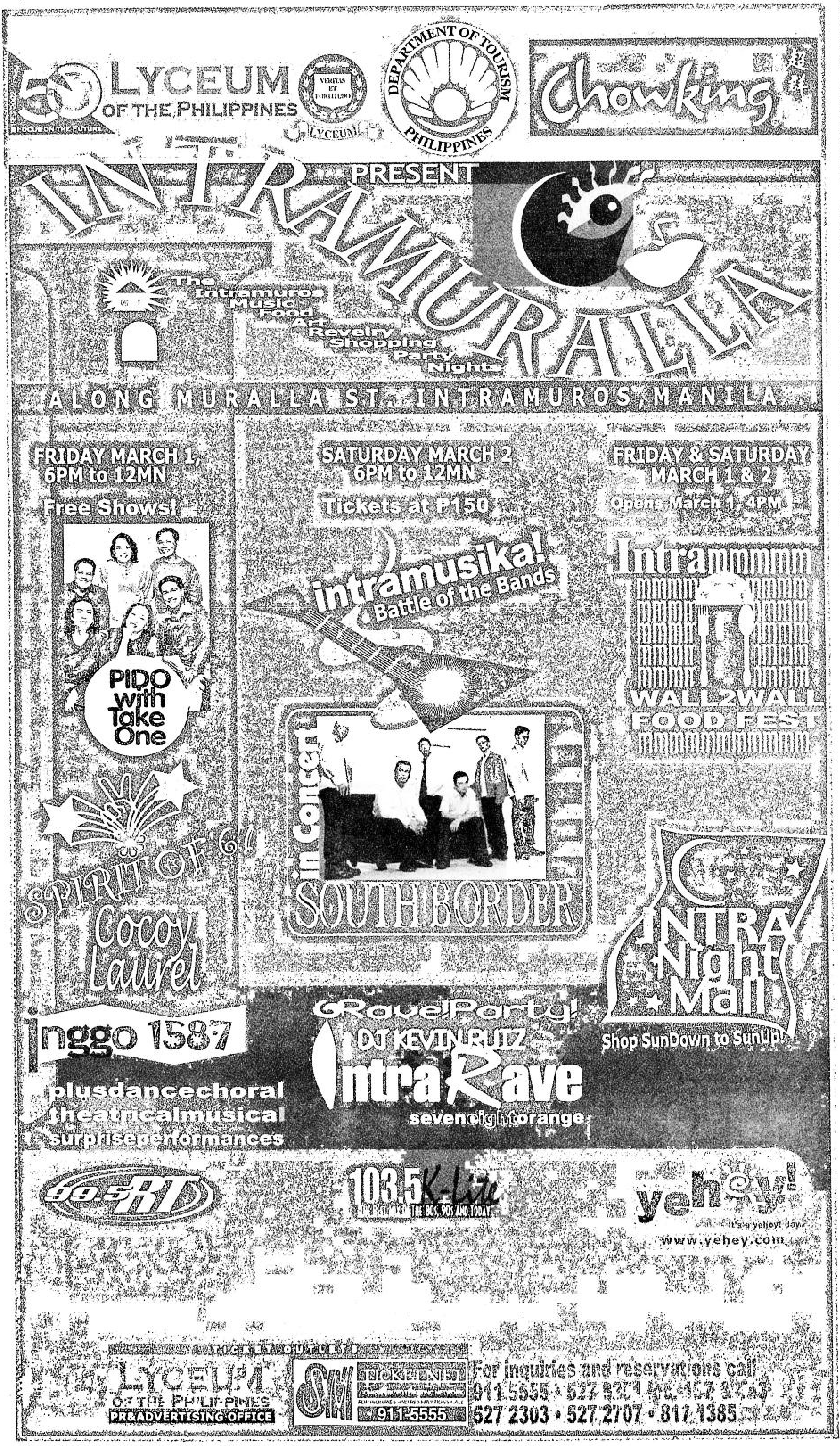
I'VE noticed that more passenger cars and AUVs these days are being fitted with television and movie screens in the dashboard, in full view of the driver. Am I the only one who thinks that this is a bad idea?

Let's face it. Filipinos are not exactly the most disciplined drivers in the world. It's hard enough to drive around safely in city streets, without having to worry about whether the driver in front of you is paying attention to the road.

There are already laws against using the cellular phone while driving, so I don't see why there shouldn't be the same prohibitions against watching television while behind the wheel. Besides, in the United States and in some parts of Europe, cars with video screens on the dashboard are equipped with a safety device, which ensures that viewing is only possible when the parking brake is engaged. I don't see the same feature in either the Nissan Exalta Grandeur or the Isuzu Highlander.

Television and video screens on the dashboard should be outlawed. Driving in the Philippines is dangerous enough without them.

—ROSANNA R. RICAFORT, 70 Ecology Village, Makati City



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New rules benefit OFWs and families

KINDLY allow me to respond to the letter of Poe Gratela, secretary general of Migrante International, titled "Government is bigger problem for OFWs" last Feb. 21, 2002.

Harping on old issues, Gratela made sweeping innuendoes against the government, particularly the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). He appears to be totally blind to the causes of those issues and to the directions of the moves made by the government, including the DOLE, in rectifying them.

- The new rules on overseas recruitment will reduce the number of workers who pay excessive fees to agencies. Many families, possibly thousands and thousands of families, can now almost immediately enjoy the fruits of foreign work, and no longer wait for months to over a year to settle the debts incurred in getting overseas jobs. This will have incalculable beneficial effects on the lives of those families.
- The new rules will eventually limit the number of recruiters to those who are sincere about promoting the welfare and well-being of their clients. Thus fewer workers will suffer abuses and maltreatment in the hands of foreign employers.
- The government has striven to find better foreign jobs for Filipino workers. Also, it has sought to train or retrain more and more of them to enable them to get better positions. We now have more information technology practitioners, nurses, therapists and other medical workers, engineers and other professionals in foreign jobs. The government is likewise upgrading the skills of our domestic helpers already abroad through IT and other training courses. As a result, some of them have transferred to better jobs.
- The government has been trying to generate more and more local jobs. With this comes the establishment of a skills-vacancies matching system that has helped hundreds of thousands get jobs locally. But while we created more jobs last year, and while they were still not enough for all jobless Filipinos, they were meant to encourage our people, including OFWs, to work here.
- The government doesn't export people to overseas jobs. It merely gives them an option. Many prefer to work overseas for their own reasons, including a desire to earn more. Overseas work is a mixed blessing with the pluses far outweighing the costs in most cases. The government and other quarters have long recognized those costs and have collaborated in seeking to ease them.
- The $25 collected from each migrant worker by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration makes up a welfare as well as an insurance fund for Owwa members. It is spent for their protection and repatriation when necessary.

No administration, past or present, can be blamed for the woes of overseas work. Migration in its many forms is a human phenomenon that goes back many centuries. It has always come with pain and promise, both of which have saddled the human quest for greener fields since time immemorial.

In closing, let me point to Gratela's utter lack of respect for the dignity of labor that is apparent, among others, in his insistence that labor is exportable. This lack is just one shade away from lack of respect for the dignity of the worker himself.

—QUIN T. ATAVIADO, c/o Information and Publication Service, Department of Labor and Employment, Moralia Street, Intramuros, Manila

Support for Code-NGO

WE wish to express our unstinting support for the two leaders of Code-NGO, Ma. Socorro Camacho-Reyes and Dan Songco, whom we know to be NGO leaders of the highest integrity. Reyes is also president of the Association of Foundations . We all know her to be deeply committed to the welfare of the Filipino poor.

The PEACe bonds and Code-NGO have come under fire the past few weeks. What started out as a genuine concern for the struggling poor is now the subject of an increasingly acrimonious public debate.

Since the 1970s, much of the poverty alleviation work done by NGOs has been funded by foreign donor agencies. However, since the late 1980s, the situation has changed. NGOs now find that funds have drastically dwindled for the very critical work that must be done.

The events of May 1, 2001, convinced the NGO community that urgent steps have to be taken to help the poor. We, therefore supported Code-NGO's efforts to find a sustainable funding source for the poverty alleviation work of NGOs. These efforts resulted in the PEACe bonds and the Peace and Equity Foundation. We are convinced that this is a milestone in ensuring NGO resource sustainability. We firmly believe that the PEACe bonds will have a major impact on improving the lives of the poor.

—WITH 11 SIGNATORIES, Board of Trustees of the Association of Foundations, Rm. 9001-A, 9/F Aurora Tower, Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City

Bomb explosion rocks Italy's interior ministry

ROME—A bomb exploded overnight outside the Italian interior ministry in central Rome, causing some damage but no injuries, police said Tuesday.

The crude explosive device—believed to have been attached to a scooter parked on the sidewalk behind some trashcans—had the power to cause serious devastation, police added.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said the attack was "a worrying sign. It would be a mistake to underestimate it."

The force of the blast and its target mocked Italy's high state of alert around public buildings and installations since Sept. 11, including Nato and US bases and diplomatic buildings.

First reports said dynamite was used. There was no immediate claim of responsibility or any signs that it was linked to Islamic terrorism.

Police last week arrested a group of Moroccans they believe were plotting to bomb the US Embassy.

The bomb, which went off several meters from the walls of the ministry at about 4 a.m., damaged five cars, burned two scooters and blew out the windows of several stores and buildings in the via Palermo.

Italy's President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi called it "a serious offense against the institutions which guarantee the security of citizens, and therefore, of all the nation."

Interior Minister Claudio Scajola, who visited the scene of the blast early Tuesday, said the attack was "a grave act at a place which symbolizes the security of the state and its citizens."

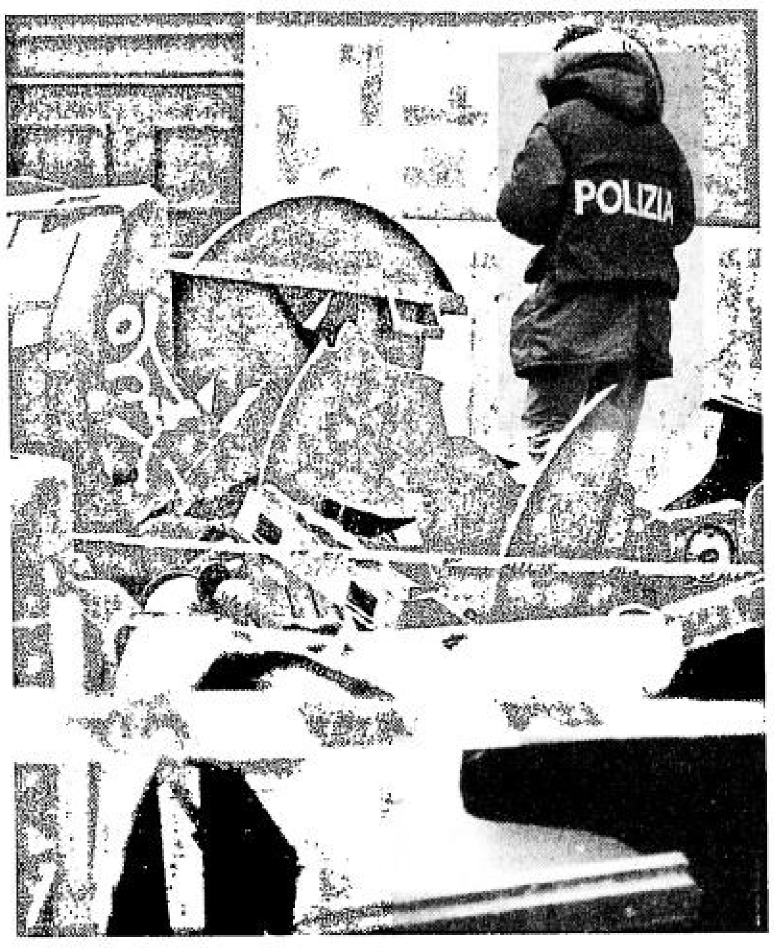
"We need to keep our guard up," Rome's mayor Walter Veltroni said. "This could have had serious consequences because it happened on a street open to public access."

The headquarters of the Democrats of the Left (DS) opposition party is also located near the early 20th-century interior ministry building.

The incident follows last week's discovery of a breach in a utility tunnel near the US diplomatic compound which sparked fears of possible plans for a terror attack.

The discovery of the tunnel breach followed the arrest of four Moroccans who police said were armed with explosives, potentially deadly chemicals and maps marking the Embassy, including its underground water intake pipes.

Berlusconi lashed out at critics of his center-right government who marched in Milan at the weekend to mark the 10th anniversary of the "mani pulite" (clean hands) anti-corruption inquiry into links between politics and big business. *AFP*



POLICE inspect damaged dumpsters after a bomb exploded next to Italy's interior ministry in Rome. The blast damaged parked cars and shattered windows near the interior ministry. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the bombing. AP

Invitation: All Foreigners/Former Filipinos

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The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA)
Invites you to a free briefing session to be held on
February 28, 2002, Thursday, at 10:00 A.M.
on how you can get special residency status.

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We'll tell you about getting Permanent Residency:
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The application procedures and requirements.

Special briefing session will also be held on:
April 25, 2002, Thursday, at 10:00 A.M.

Admission is FREE... DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

We hope to see you there.

VERNETTE UMALI-PACO, CESO II
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

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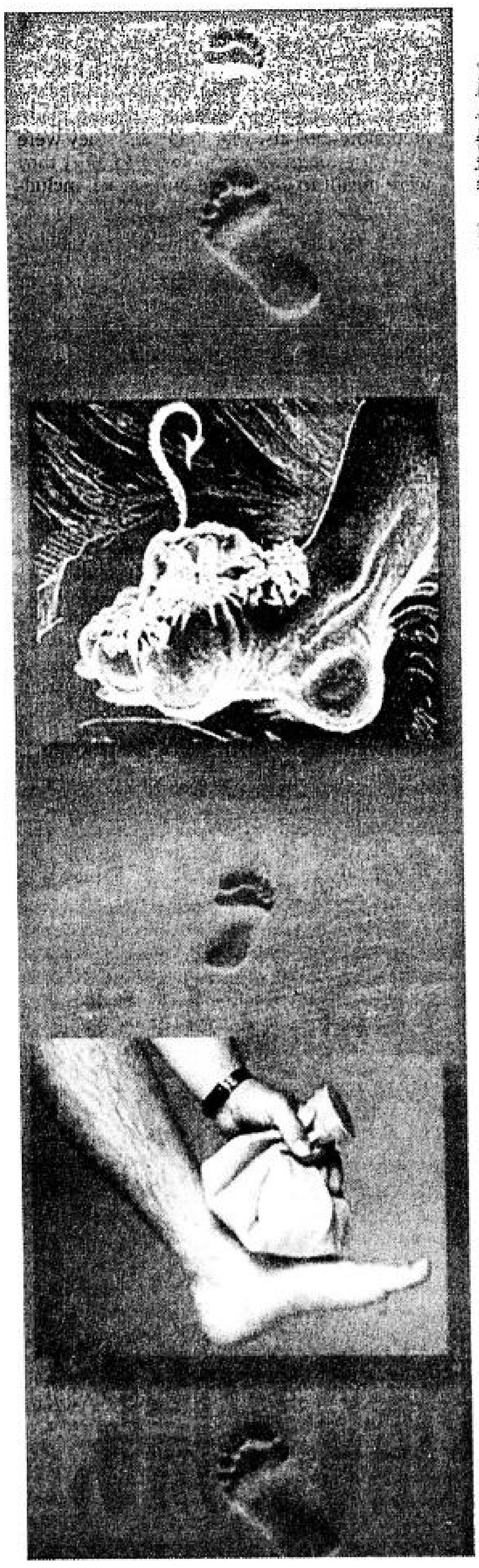

Oh my GOUT!!!

INFORMATION ABOUT GOUT, ITS ROOT CAUSE, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND WAYS TO GET RID OF IT

with guests:

MARIANO P. LOPEZ, MD
SANDRA T. TORRES, MD
DANTE D. MORALES, MD

Special participation of:
MR. RICKY DAVAO
as the patient
MONINA TAN SANTIAGO

February 27, 2002
Wednesday
10 PM @ NBN 4

Fora MEDICA
MEDICAL TELEDIGEST

Hindi lang iisa ang klase ng ubo. At mahalaga ring malaman na sa bawat klase ng ubo, may katumbas na gamot.

Mayroong tinatawag na *productive cough*. Ito'y ubo na may kasamang paninikip ng dibdib, hirap sa paghinga at makapit na plema. Para sa productive cough, kailangan ng *mucolytic* o *expectorant* (mga uri ng gamot na tumutulong sa pagtunaw at pagtanggal ng plema).

Ang mga sumusunod ay ang mga *generic names* ng ilang uri ng *mucolytic* at *expectorant:*

Carbocisteine
Isang *mucolytic*, ito ay para sa ubong may kasamang sipon.

Bromhexine
Uri rin ng *mucolytic* na para naman sa ubong may makapit na plema.

Guaifenesin
Ang *expectorant* na ito'y para sa ubong sanhi ng makating lalamunan.

May mga ubo rin na mula sa allergic reaction, ubong kailangan ng *anti-histamine*.

Diphenhydramine
Isang *anti-histamine*, ito'y para sa ubong sanhi ng allergy.

Malaking bagay ang magkaroon ng kaalaman tungkol sa tamang *generic name* ng gamot para sa iba't ibang klaseng ubo. Hindi na kayo malilito sa pagpili ng gamot na para sa inyo.

Ito rin ang paraan kung paano kayo makakatipid tuwing bibili ng *cough medicine*. Dahil kung alam ninyo ang generic name ng gamot sa ubo, maaari nang pumili mula sa iba't ibang brands. At maaari na ninyong piliin ang pinaka-abot-kaya sa mga ito.

Gaya nga ng Pharex Medicines. Pasado sa pagsusuri ng DOH (Department of Health), sumusunod pa sa CGMP (Current Good Manufacturing Practices) na certified ng BFAD. Sa Pharex, nakatipid na kayo, nakasiguro pa na ang gamot na inyong nabili ay may magandang quality at mula sa kompanyang mapagkakatiwalaan.

Kaya ngayon, hindi na kailangang lumala pa ang ubo kaiisip kung ano ang wastong gamot - at kung gaano kamahal ito. Kailangan lang ang generic name ay alam ninyo.

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STRIKING workers shout slogans during a rally in downtown Seoul. The strike has disrupted rail traffic across South Korea. AP

South Korean strike widens

SEOUL—Despite government threats to arrest labor leaders, workers at South Korea's largest auto plant walked off their jobs Tuesday to support a railway strike that disrupted transportation across the country for a second straight day.

Assembly lines at Hyundai Motor Co. and its sister Kia Motors stood idle Tuesday afternoon after 20,000 workers put down their tools after the morning shift, said officials at Hyundai plants in Ulsan, 320 km southeast of Seoul.

It was unclear whether auto workers would continue their strike Wednesday, said Lee Hyun-koo, head of Hyundai's labor union.

President Kim Dae-jung condemned ."illegal and violent strikes," referring to railway workers who began a strike Monday to protest the government's economic reform programs.

Privatizing the national railway and other ineffective state firms is one of Kim's top economic policy priorities in his last year in office. Workers fear the changes will lead to mass layoffs. *AP*

Saudi idea for peace tantalizes Israelis

JERUSALEM—Israel said Monday it was exploring with interest a tentative Saudi proposal that calls for an Israeli pullout from virtually all the territories it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in return for a comprehensive peace.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has fiercely opposed a total pullout. But he knows Israelis are despondent over 17 months of dead-end conflict and eager for a ray of hope. The Saudi proposal offers two things Israel craves: broad acceptance by Arab states and a negotiating partner beyond Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

However, any discussion of significant concessions to Palestinians could undermine Sharon's governing coalition—a patchwork of parties with widely divergent positions on the land-for-peace idea.

The Palestinians and moderate Arabs have welcomed the Saudi idea, and US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday it was an important step he hoped would be fleshed out in the next few weeks.

Sharon's spokesperson, Raanan Gissin, said on Monday that Israel was "trying to find out through the United States and other sources . . . if this is a real proposal.

"If indeed a reasonable offer is presented . . . that will guarantee not just that Israel gives back territory but that real, true normalization will develop—I think you can restore the confidence in peace because most of the people want peace," Gissin said.

Trying to build momentum, Israel's President Moshe Katsav said Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah—who floated the proposal in a recent interview with The New York Times—should come to Israel for talks, or alternatively receive him in Riyadh.

However, Katsav has a mainly ceremonial role, and the real power rests with Sharon. When Katsav wanted to address the Palestinian parliament recently, Sharon blocked the plan. In any case, Saudi Arabia has refused to have any contact with Israel while its dispute with the Palestinians remains unresolved.

One possibility being discussed was for the Saudis to raise the proposal at next month's Arab League summit in Lebanon, but Palestinian officials said they had been assured that would not happen unless Israel ended Arafat's three-month confinement to the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Details of the Saudi proposal remained sketchy, but it was clearly very different from the limited interim settlement that Sharon has said he would pursue with the Palestinians if and when violence subsides.

Sharon has for decades been a leading patron of the West Bank and Gaza settlements where some 200,000 Israelis live. A near-total pullout would require many, if not most, of them to be removed. *AP*

Pag-IBIG Fund's Commitment of Support to the National Shelter Program under the Proposed Department of Housing and Urban Development

We recognize that the Pag-IBIG Fund has always been and should always be an integral part of the government's housing and shelter program. We likewise recognize the need for the Fund to continue its unwavering commitment in the implementation of the National Shelter Program of the Arroyo administration, mainly, through the provision of housing loans to our members.

The foregoing realization is based on our history. From its inception, the Pag-IBIG Fund has been under the administrative supervision of various housing agencies, including, the Ministry of Human Settlements (1980-1986), the Office of the President (1986-1987), and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (1987 to present). While it remained an attached agency throughout these years, the Fund has grown to be what it is today: a financially robust and autonomous premiere provident and housing fund.

Recently, an initiative to create a Department of Housing and Urban Development commenced before the House of Representatives and the Philippine Senate. Concerned over a number of controversial provisions in the Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act pending before the House of Representatives, efforts were pursued to inform our members regarding its salient features. In the process, we confirmed the deep concern our members had over any form of threat to the Fund's viability. Backed up by the strength of our members' support, as well as our common and deep understanding of our reason for being, we wish to express our support to the National Shelter Program of the Government under the proposed Department of Housing and Urban Development and pursue all efforts to ensure, among others, that: (1) Pag-IBIG will continue to operate under its own charter, P.D. No. 1752; (2) no abolition of Pag-IBIG shall result; (3) no integration of its employees to the Department of Housing shall occur; (4) the funds of Pag-IBIG will be used exclusively for the benefit of its members in accordance with P.D. No. 1752; and (5) Pag-IBIG shall be administratively autonomous from the proposed Department of Housing.

We unequivocally reaffirm our commitment to our members that we will continuously protect the integrity of the Fund. While we strongly oppose any initiatives that undermine its integrity, we shall continue to support the National Shelter Program of the Government under the proposed Department of Housing.

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WORLDBRIEFS

Iran tries to defuse tension

TEHRAN—Iran's rhetoric remains angry and defiant, with chants of "death to America" ringing in the streets, but its moderate leadership has signaled a desire to avoid conflict with Washington after being labeled part of an "axis of evil." Iran also rejects US charges that it is trying to destabilize neighboring Afghanistan as it emerges from Taliban rule. Iran's government says it has long opposed the Taliban—accused of harboring the al-Qaida terrorist network responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks—and that it doesn't want volatile neighbors. On a visit to Iran that began Sunday, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai called on the United States and Iran to put aside their differences and work together to help his country. Iran recently closed the offices of former Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who dismisses Afghanistan's interim government as a US-imposed puppet regime. And Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi has said Iran is trying to control its 965-km border with Afghanistan—a possible escape route for al-Qaida fighters or supporters of the ousted Taliban. *AP*

Boot camp for new Afghan Army

KABUL—Two hundred soldiers in northern Afghanistan laid down their weapons and peacekeepers launched a boot camp to begin training a national army, but whether Afghanistan will be able to end factional fighting and establish a viable central government remains uncertain. At the 120-year-old Baghjahanuma fort on Monday, warlord Atta Mohammed saluted his men before ordering them to place their kalashnikovs in the dirt and step back. Other soldiers turned in grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns and mortars. Discouraging rival warlords from turning their armies on each other is seen as the greatest challenge ahead as interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai tries to consolidate power in the hands of a stable national government. On Monday, international peacekeepers began training a battalion of 600 men that will be the vanguard of a new national army to keep order. Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim has said he wanted to see a standing army of no more than 200,000 men. *AP*

Extradition discussed

ISLAMABAD—In a meeting Tuesday with President Pervez Musharraf, the US ambassador to Pakistan raised the question of extraditing suspects in the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin "thanked the president for the ongoing police cooperation in the Pearl case and encouraged further movement in the case," said Mark Wentworth, spokesperson for the US Embassy in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. Asked if Chamberlin and Musharraf discussed the issue of extradition during their meeting, Wentworth replied: "She raised the subject with him but I don't have anything further." Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, a British-born Islamic militant who police believe masterminded Pearl's Jan. 23 kidnapping, was already in police custody by the time US and Pakistani authorities revealed the contents of a videotape Friday that confirmed Pearl's death at the hands of extremists. US officials say they had requested Saeed's extradition to the United States even before his name came up in connection with Pearl's murder. The US justice department secretly indicted him in the 1994 kidnapping of four Westerners in India, including an American. *AP*

Cuba's annual cigar festival

HAVANA—Tobacco sellers packed their display cases with box upon box of Cuba's finest cigars in anticipation of this week's annual Habano Festival—and the onslaught of foreigners willing to pay top dollar for the perfect smoke. For five days starting Monday, more than 600 people from 47 countries are expected to converge on Cuba to celebrate the communist nation's world-famous tobacco. Cuba's cigars are also among the world's most expensive. A box of 25 Cohiba "esplendidos" costs $383.75 at one of Havana's many tobacco retail shops. It's a luxury most Cubans cannot afford in a country where the average monthly government salary is a little less than $10. Instead, Cuban smokers get four cigars—sometimes of dubious quality—on their monthly government ration. *AP*

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Edsa rites 'nuisance,' says Marcos aide

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The events at Edsa, where people come together to keep alive the beacon of the Filipinos in the struggle against a dictatorial regime and a corrupt president, are "getting to be a nuisance," according to a spokesperson of the Marcos family.

"This is something they do every year and it's getting to be a nuisance. We will never get to know the real events of 1986 until all these people disappear (from the scene) to allow our historians (to) write the truth," said Lito Gorospe, former press assistant for broadcast under the Marcos regime and now spokesperson for Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

In an interview with Bombo Radyo-Laoag on Monday, Gorospe also slammed critics of the Marcos family who, he said, continued to spawn hatred against the Marcoses 16 years after they were driven from power in 1986.

Although a noticeably smaller crowd gathered at the People Power Monument on Edsa for the 16th anniversary of the 1986 People Power, Filipinos again showed the world how to keep the spirit of peaceful struggle alive.

For the Marcoses, however, Monday's affair was another occasion to vilify the gains of the Marcos presidency.

"That's what (Edsa is). They meet at Edsa to hurl criticisms at Marcos and his family and go home with smiles on their faces," Gorospe said, referring to the key players of the 1986 People Power led by former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

"All of them are there wearing the yellow thing again. It has become a pathetic symbol of the 1986 Edsa. But today, they have a new recruit in (President) Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, a key player in the 1986 People Power, however, reminded the people that the lessons of the two Edsa uprisings (1986 and 2001) are about justice and vigilance.

Sin noted that justice has yet to be given to victims of torture and human rights abuses during the Marcos regime.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos described the commemoration of People Power as a "very sad moment to the (Marcos) family."

"It is not a happy time for the family because we remember a lot of things about my father," she said.

Marcos also took the opportunity to reflect on the supposed changes on the lives of Filipinos after the two Edsa uprisings.

"Do we see a decline in the number of poor Filipinos? Has poverty incidence dropped? Has life improved for the ordinary citizens? These are the questions in the continuing drama and tragedy of our history," Marcos' eldest daughter said.

The Marcoses, according to Gorospe, were very quiet about the events at the Edsa monument on Monday. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos spent the day with friends, he said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 14°
Tuguigarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Legapi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Gen.Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/27/02

ROUNDUP

2 workers hurt in attack

COTABATO CITY—Two construction workers were injured after suspected Moro rebels shot at a bulldozer they were riding in on Sunday. Maj. Julieto Ano, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the victims, Jainal Abubakar and Cesar Onko, were doing excavation work in Barangay Igaagampong in Shariff Aguak town, Maguindanao, when Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels fired a grenade at them at about 9 a.m. The explosion damaged the bulldozer. Ando said responding soldiers of the 7th Infantry Battalion engaged the attackers in a brief firefight, but nobody was hurt. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied Ando's claim.
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Suspected rebs kill rapist

DAVAO CITY—Suspected communist rebels shot and killed a man who reportedly tried to rape his daughter in Montevista, Compostela Valley, on Sunday afternoon. Police said Moises Salazar, of Sitio Bagtok, Barangay San Vicente was inside his house when seven alleged New People's Army rebels came and peppered him with bullets. Salazar, who was also a suspected robber, died on the spot.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Slain councilor buried

COTABATO CITY—Relatives and other mourners cried for justice for a slain councilor as he and his 6-year-old nephew were buried on Monday. Alexis Cotales and his nephew, Clarence Cang, were killed in an ambush by suspected assassins on Feb. 17 for a still unclear motive. Residents here have called for concrete action from police and military authorities to solve the case. A convoy of more than 50 vehicles caused a traffic jam along the funeral route on Sinsuat Avenue. Dr. Ceferino Cotales, the councilor's father, said the family was praying for an end to the rash of shooting and other criminal incidents in the city.
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gunmen destroy equipment

ANGELES CITY—Four armed men barged into a batch processing (sand polishing) plant in Barangay Sapa Libutad here on Monday and destroyed several equipment and machinery. Police said four men, all wearing bonnets and armed with M-16 rifles, arrived at the Lewell Vibro Plant at 3 a.m. Monday and disarmed security guard Albert Santos. The men burned and damaged the company's equipment and broke the windows of several vehicles inside the plant.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Armed men rob women

AGUPAN CITY—Armed men robbed two women in separate incidents here on Tuesday. Police said two men robbed a cashier of a chicken delivery firm in Mangaldan town in Barangay Tambac here. The suspects took P600,000 from Mercy Sarte, cashier of PDNet, as their company van was caught in traffic. Police said robbers also victimized a bank manager while she was on her way to her office on Tuesday morning. Reports said Remy p Wong, manager of the International Exchange Bank branch here, lost P6,000, a wrist watch and a cellular phone to two robbers.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Computers for schools

ARILAO, Bulacan—At least 20 personal computer units were donated to 11 public high schools here by the Department of Trade and Industry through its "PCs for public high schools" program. Mayor Leoncio Duran said more than 10,000 students from elementary and high schools will benefit from the program. Trade Secretary Manuel oxas II said 20,000 computers provided through joint projects of the Japanese government, the DTI and other government agencies and private groups will be given to 1,000 public schools in the country. *Carmela Reyes PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Kin of Antique massacre victims laud SC ruling

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

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R.I.P
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Not at this time, Alvarez says of Agno cement plant

BINALONAN, Pangasinan—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the proposed P13-billion Agno cement plant project should not be pursued at this time as the country is not in dire need of cement and the plant would endanger the sustainability of the area.

"I don't think we should press for a cement processing plant in areas where sustainability is threatened. (Besides), this time we are not in dire need of cement," Alvarez told reporters here on Saturday.

"In fact, there's a glut of cement, and most cement manufacturers are not able to achieve the kind of market (they wanted) because the market (is down now)," he added.

In June last year, Alvarez revoked the extension of the environment compliance certificate issued to the project.

He also formed a committee to monitor the cement plant proponents' compliance with the ECC.

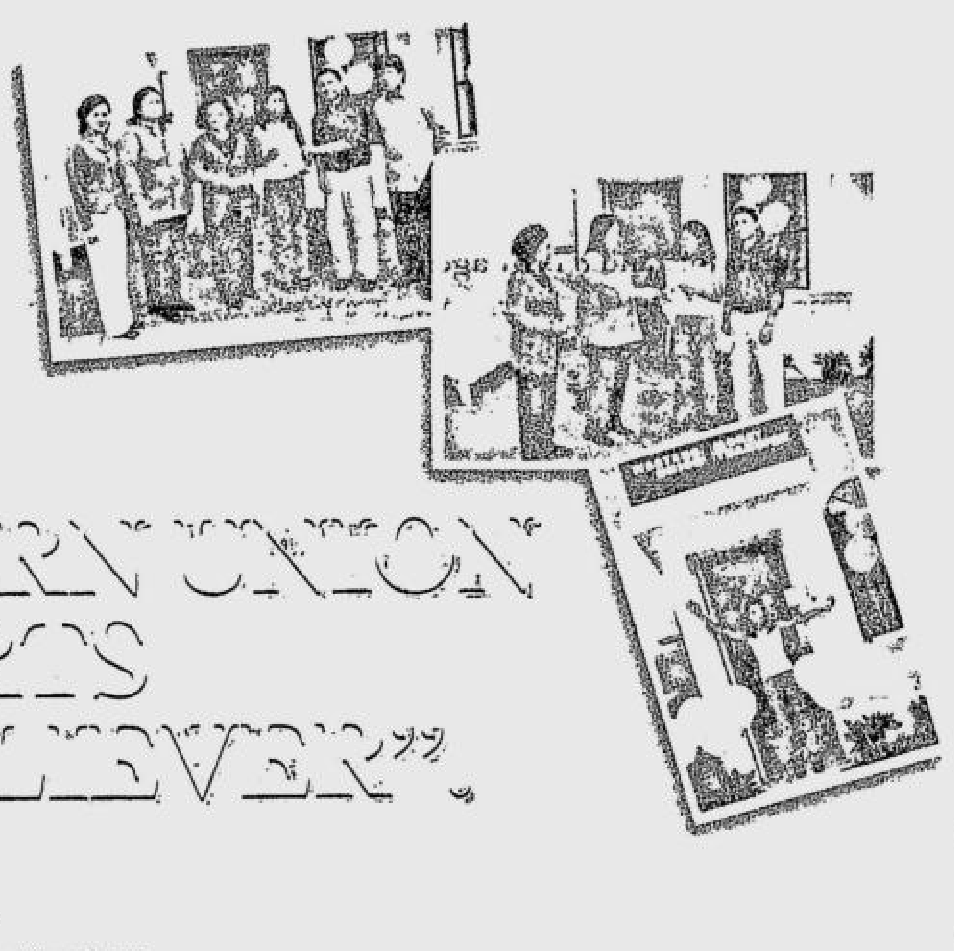
The committee reported to Alvarez that only one of the 51 provisions was complied with.

Alvarez said the proponents of the plant were not pushing for the immediate construction of the cement plant complex at Sitio Abagatanen in Agno town.

"Maybe they are waiting for a change in the economy and they will want to pursue it again. But their application is there," he said.

A consortium of international companies led by the Taiwan-based Goldsun Corp. has proposed the construction of the cement plant complex.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued an ECC to the project in 1999, but the proponents failed to comply with any of the 51 conditions set for its construction. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



"WESTERN UNION CONVERTS NON-BELIEVER".
-Virginia Villazor

Winning in raffle draws and other similar promotions always attract most people. But not Virginia Villazor, Western Union's second lucky winner of a house and lot. She was initially lukewarm to Western Union's "Win A Dream Home" Promotion.

Last year, Virginia quit her job to take care of her brother's children. Her brother was joining his wife who was already working in California. To compensate for quitting her job, regular dollar remittances through Western Union were sent by Virginia's sister-in-law, including a promise of a possible move to the US this year. Virginia claims they chose Western Union because of its quick service and because one can receive the transfer in U.S. dollars at select agent locations in the Philippines.

Virginia entered the Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" Promotion upon the prodding of her brother. "Iniisip ko pa kung ihuhulog ko nga o hindi ang stub ko," she later relates. "Hindi naman kasi ako maswerte sa mga raffle eh."

"May tumawag sa bahay 5:30 ng umaga para sabihin sa nanay ko na nanalo ako ng house and lot," she continues, " Akala ko nanloloko lang pero nung tumawag ulit at ako na mismo nakausap, naglulundag talaga ako sa tuwa!"

You can still Win

Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" Promotion began May 30, 2001 and is extended until June 11, 2002. Open to residents 18 years old and above, customers can participate by picking up a Western Union passbook at participating Western Union outlets nationwide. Each transaction at any Western Union agent locations entitle customers to a sticker. Three stickers entitle customers to a raffle coupon. The grand prize is a house and lot or its cash equivalent.

Virginia and her family are so thankful to Western Union for their new home. They plan to move this March from their former house in Sampaloc. "Sabi ko nga sa nanay at tatay ko, simula na ito ng pagbuo ng mga pangarap namin sa buhay, " Virgina concluded. "Salamat sa Western Union."

Two More Houses Await Lucky Winners

Virginia is the second of the three lucky winners of a house and lot. The next raffle draw is on March 18, 2002. Due to the favorable response, Western Union will extend the promotion nationwide and will hold a grand draw on June 11, 2002 to give away another house and lot package. So push fate in the right direction and join the Western Union "Win a Dream Home" Promotion now!

See posters and print ads for more details.

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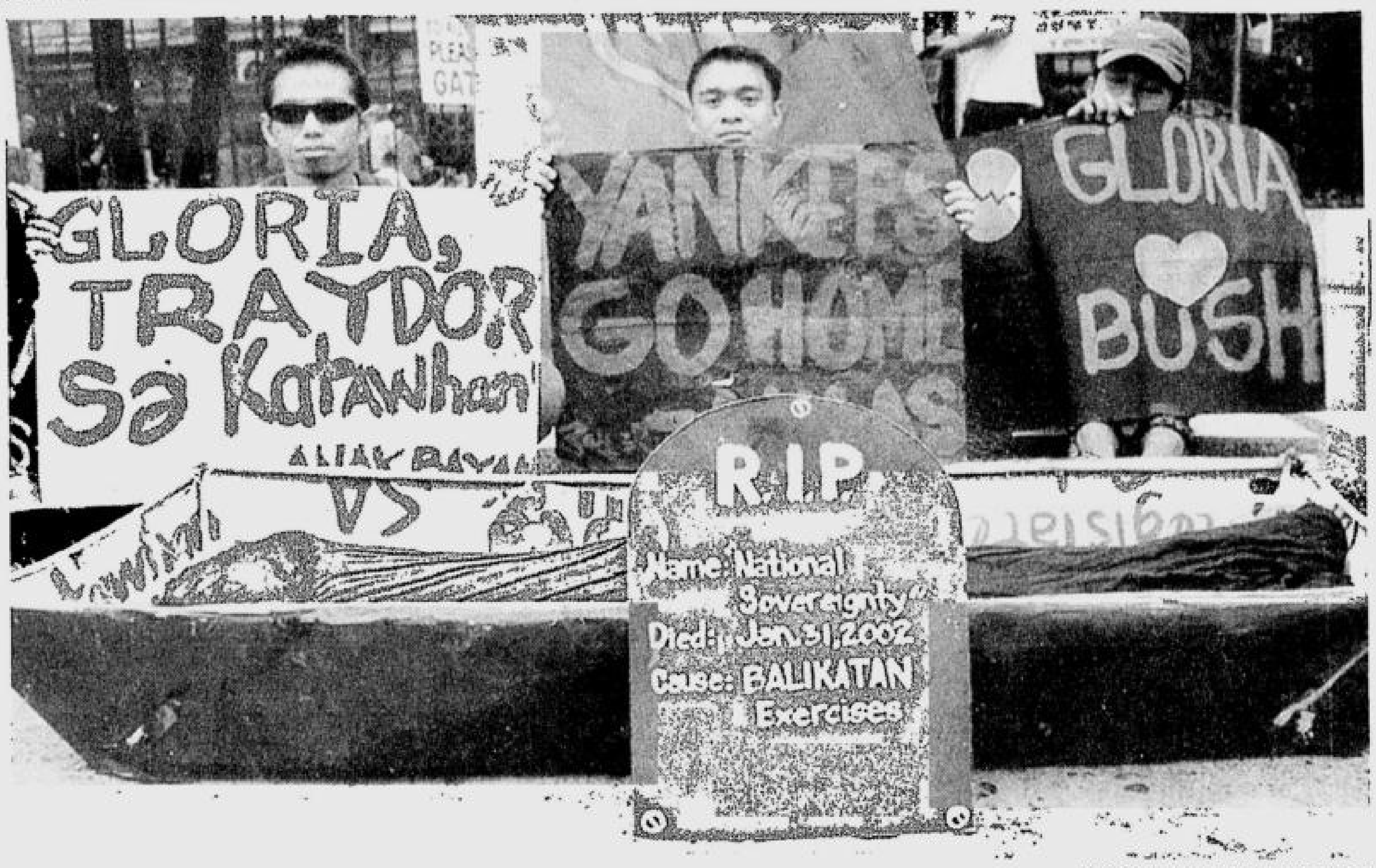
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"I don't think we should press for a cement processing plant in areas where sustainability is threatened. (Besides), this time we are not in dire need of cement," Alvarez told reporters here on Saturday.

"In fact, there's a glut of cement, and most cement manufacturers are not able to achieve the kind of market (they wanted) because the market (is down now)," he added.

In June last year, Alvarez revoked the extension of the environment compliance certificate issued to the project.

He also formed a committee to monitor the cement plant proponents' compliance with the ECC.

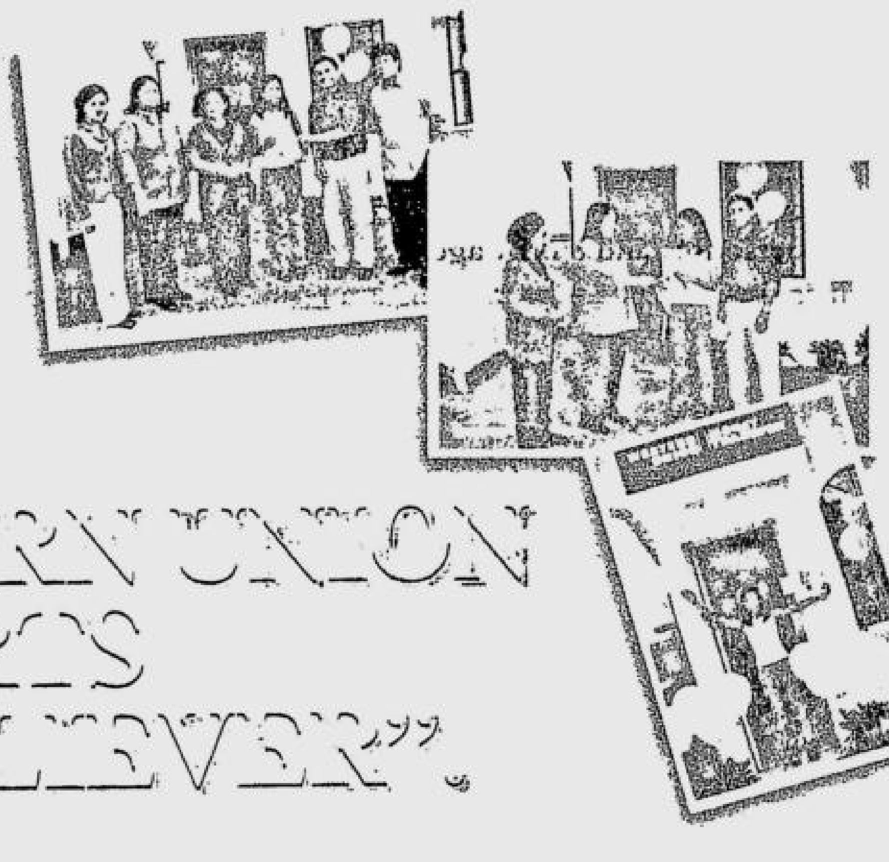
The committee reported to Alvarez that only one of the 51 provisions was complied with.

Alvarez said the proponents of the plant were not pushing for the immediate construction of the cement plant complex at Sitio Abagatanen in Agno town.

"Maybe they are waiting for a change in the economy and they will want to pursue it again. But their application is there," he said.

A consortium of international companies led by the Taiwan-based Goldsun Corp. has proposed the construction of the cement plant complex.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued an ECC to the project in 1999, but the proponents failed to comply with any of the 51 conditions set for its construction. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



"WESTERN UNION CONVERTS NON-BELIEVER".
-Virginia Villazor

Winning in raffle draws and other similar promotions always attract most people. But not Virginia Villazor, Western Union's second lucky winner of a house and lot. She was initially lukewarm to Western Union's "Win A Dream Home" Promotion.

Last year, Virginia quit her job to take care of her brother's children. Her brother was joining his wife who was already working in California. To compensate for quitting her job, regular dollar remittances through Western Union were sent by Virginia's sister-in-law, including a promise of a possible move to the US this year. Virginia claims they chose Western Union because of its quick service and because one can receive the transfer in U.S. dollars at select agent locations in the Philippines.
Virginia entered the Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" Promotion upon the prodding of her brother. "Iniisip ko pa kung ihuhulog ko nga o hindi ang stub ko," she later relates. "Hindi naman kasi ako maswerte sa mga raffle eh."

"May tumawag sa bahay 5:30 ng umaga para sabihin sa nanay ko na nanalo ako ng house and lot," she continues, " Akala ko nanloloko lang pero nung tumawag ulit at ako na mismo nakausap, naglulundag talaga ako sa tuwa!"

You can still Win
Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" Promotion began May 30, 2001 and is extended until June 11, 2002. Open to residents 18 years old and above, customers can participate by picking up a Western Union passbook at participating Western Union outlets nationwide. Each transaction at any Western Union agent locations entitle customers to a sticker. Three stickers entitle customers to a raffle coupon. The grand prize is a house and lot or its cash equivalent.
Virginia and her family are so thankful to Western Union for their new home. They plan to move this March from their former house in Sampaloc. "Sabi ko nga sa nanay at tatay ko, simula na ito ng pagbuo ng mga pangarap namin sa buhay, " Virgina concluded. "Salamat sa Western Union."

Two More Houses Await Lucky Winners
Virginia is the second of the three lucky winners of a house and lot. The next raffle draw is on March 18, 2002. Due to the favorable response, Western Union will extend the promotion nationwide and will hold a grand draw on June 11, 2002 to give away another house and lot package. So push fate in the right direction and join the Western Union "Win a Dream Home" Promotion now!
See posters and print ads for more details.

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February 22, 2002

REYNALDO WYCOCO
Director
NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Taft Avenue, Manila

Dear **Director Wycoco:**

We would like to bring to your attention a matter of serious concern regarding the serving of the *Warrants of Arrest* against **Bro. Eliseo Soriano** of ADD (*"Ang Dating Daan"*).

JANUARY 29, 2002, TUESDAY

On January 29, 2002, Tuesday, at about 7:30pm, the Arrest Warrants were attempted to be served at TV channel SBN21 at Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The Warrants were attempted to be served by more or less 40 people including a number of PNP personnel and 4 NBI agents in the libel case of *People vs. Bro. Eliseo Soriano, et. al.* Criminal case Nos. 5957-02 and 02-4178 to 4180.

The service of warrant was made at a place where Bro. Eli Soriano was not holding office nor residing at the TV channel SBN21. This fact is known particularly to the parties most interested in filing this libel case against Brother Eli Soriano, et al.

The attempt to serve the Warrants at that commercial center was purposely made to publicly embarrass and humiliate Bro. Eli Soriano. For the mere attempt to serve it in such a high profile place would certainly attract public attention and generate more talks leading to the distorted rumors to the prejudice of Bro. Eli Soriano. Malice and abuse in the service of the warrant was apparent.

More disturbing was the imposing number of unnecessary law enforcers who tried to serve the warrant.

A case of libel is not a heinous crime defined under our law enough to warrant the employment and display of excessive police force.

All these failed efforts were wasted because Bro. Eli Soriano was not there nor holding office at the TV channel SBN21.

FEBRUARY 2, 2002, AT 3:00 AM

On February 2, 2002, at about 3:00 AM, an attempt to serve the same warrant which was for the same case of libel as that attempted to be served on January 29, 2002 at Ortigas Center, Pasig City. This time, at the ADD Head Office, Apalit, Pampanga. Bro. Eli Soriano, et, al had already posted before the Tarlac Regional Trial Court the cash bail to secure his liberty as guaranteed under our Constitution.

What shocks our sense of decency is the manner with which this warrant was served. **Why serve the warrant at 3:00 in the morning? Why with more than 100 people which included a number of PNP personnel and 8 NBI agents?**

Service of warrants at the unholy hour of the morning such as 3:00 in the morning is a recipe to accidental encounters given the dangers attending movements by heavily armed people such as those who came to the ADD Head Office, Apalit, Pampanga.

Given the rampant criminality nowadays including the invasion of the sanctity of our homes by armed criminals which could and would be resisted by even decent peaceful citizens, why did it not ever occur to the minds of our police enforcers that serving the warrants of arrests at the dead of night, 3:am, could lead to mistakes and miscalculations by both the police officers and the people staying within the Church premises? And why the excessive display of armed forces when the warrants were to be served on church people inside the church premises?

Was it the hope of the police enforcers that there would be a miscalculation and honest mistake as well as accidents arising out of the misappreciation by the people inside the ADD Head Office who may have, in good faith, misconstrued that some serious mischief were afoot to endanger their safety and privacy? And, should such accidental encounter happen, would not the blame be conveniently laid at the doorsteps of the people within the ADD Head Office?

How do we explain the presence of the private complainant's lawyers and the almost one hundred people sent by the private complainant during the 3:00 AM service of warrants? And why did the police officers allow these supporters of the private complainant to mingle and join the police officers serving the warrants? Were the police officers ingratiating themselves to the private complainant?

Why did they not serve the warrants at 6:00 in the morning when there was sunlight already and the danger of confusion and fear and accident would have been avoided?

Why employ so much unnecessary manpower of law enforcers who were heavily armed with high-powered rifles as if they were about to attack and lay siege upon an armed camp? The ADD Head Office is known to all to be premises belonging to the church and were used for religious purposes by their devotees.

We could have used these heavily armed PNP and NBI law enforcers to chase kidnappers and drug lords and syndicates preying upon our helpless citizens especially during the dead of night when our citizens are defenseless and vulnerable to being victimized by our criminal elements.

It is our request that any further attempt, if any, to serve warrants against Bro. Eli Soriano or members of the ADD be done in a civilized manner. Proper representations and communications can be made to Bro. Eli Soriano, his staff, or his lawyers to arrange for a proper processing of the service of the warrants without need to resort to unnecessary and wasteful efforts of material and human resources, specially at a time like this where we need more policemen in the streets rather than using them for service of warrants upon peaceful citizens who have shown no, nor have had any history of, evading or running away from authorities.

We would like to believe that under your leadership, our values of plain civility and the decent treatment of our ordinary citizens would be respected.

We trust that the excessive display and imminent use of excessive force would be avoided in the future, not only to respect the civil rights of Bro. Eli Soriano and his church members, but, equally if not more, out of respect to the very meager material and human resources of our police agencies, the NBI and the PNP, of which services our people have often been so painfully deprived specially in their moments of need.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.)**BRO. ELI SORIANO**

(Sgd.)**ATTY. LEONARD DE VERA**
Counsel for Bro. Eli Soriano and his Co-defendants

Cc: **Office of the President**
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Secretary, Department of Justice
Manila

Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government Quezon City

The Director General, Philippine National Police
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

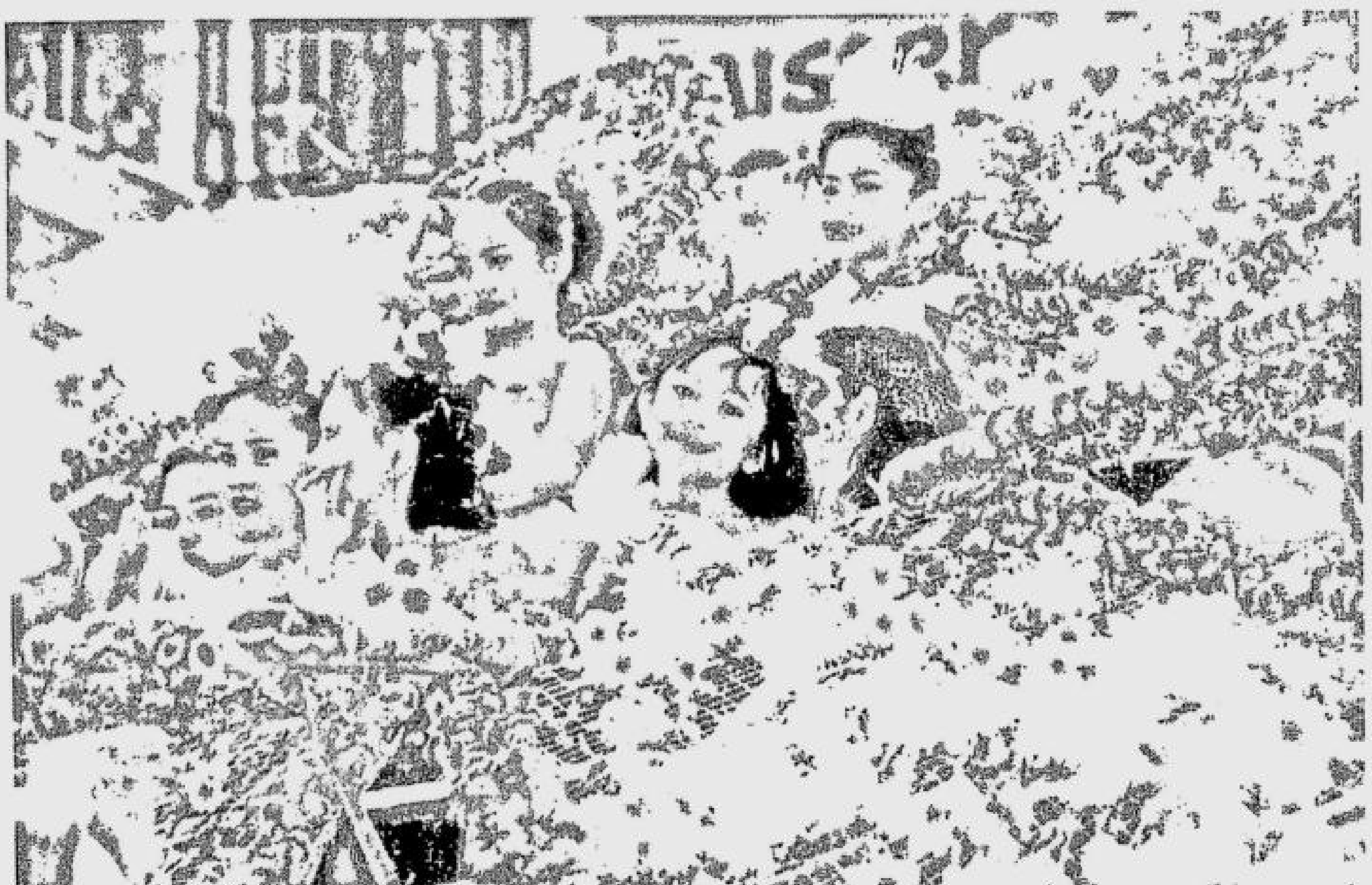
Commission on Human Rights
Quezon City

INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

'Panagbenga 2002': Looking beyond commercial success

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City



FLOWER children join opening parade of the Baguio flower festival on Friday.

TOOTS SOBERANO

TOURISTS were not coming in droves as they did before a killer earthquake flattened Baguio City in July 1990. Save for the mountain city's cool climate, there were barely other ways to win them back after being traumatized by the quake.

Until some enterprising people led by lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr. of John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. conceived the "Panagbenga" or the Baguio Flower Festival.

Now on its sixth year, the weeklong Panagbenga, which opened Feb. 23, has since been a commercial success.

Featuring street dancers in colorful costumes, a flower float parade and landscaping competitions, among other things, the event has enlivened the city's tourism industry.

For example, the festival drew an estimated 350,000 tourists last year and is expected to lure the same number this year.

This has since been good news not only to owners of hotels, transient homes, restaurants and bars. Also cashing in are other entrepreneurs who peddle steamed corn, potted plants and flowers, peanut brittle, vegetables, souvenirs and *wagwag* or second-hand clothes.

But some problems always crop up every time a big number of tourists and visitors come to Baguio for crowd-drawing events such as the flower festival and Holy Week.

These include water shortage and congestion, which raise questions about urban planning, or the lack of it, in the city that American colonial engineer Daniel Burnham originally designed for 25,000 people in the early 19th century.

Missed opportunity

The population, now almost 200,000, has exceeded the ceiling that Burnham set for Baguio, which the Americans designed as a vacation and rehabilitation resort for recuperating soldiers and colonial officials who sought to escape the heat and dust of Manila.

Almost a century after the Burnham plan, the city has yet to update its urban planning. The first opportunity to redesign came after World War II when it was bombed both by the Japanese and the Americans.

Post-war city officials could have created wider streets and roads, bigger drainage canals and better land zonings.

Apparently, they missed the opportunity.

Another came after the 1990 earthquake, which toppled defectively built and misplaced buildings. Concerned citizens within and outside the government were enthusiastic then not only to rebuild from the rubble but to rethink the outdated city plan as well.

Such enthusiasm led to the idea of developing the BLIST, which refers to Baguio and its neighboring towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba, all in Benguet. In fact, local officials and private outfits were able to convince the European Union to fund a master development plan for the BLIST area.

European consultants came to coordinate with local development planners in coming out with a BLIST master plan. They produced the plan, and local officials agreed to anchor local development schemes on it.

The BLIST master plan's main idea is to "disperse" development within the area. Commercial trading and service centers should not be concentrated in an already congested Baguio but should be established also in the neighboring towns.

Citing Baguio's problematic "carrying capacity," civil society and environmental groups welcomed the BLIST development scheme.

Anarchy and chaos

Almost 12 years after the 1990 killer quake and after the EU funds for the BLIST plan were gone, city folk still have to live with development anarchy and chaos.

Imposing structures have mushroomed and continue to rise even in Baguio's already crowded central business district, where traffic jams have become a daily fact of life.

During special events, such as the flower festival, both vehicular and pedestrian traffic come to a standstill.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon noted this when he graced the festival last year. The "terrible" traffic congestion, he said, would drive away tourists.

And there's the water problem, which can be traced to damaged watersheds, invaded mostly by squatters, many of them migrants seeking to eke out a living in the city.

Despite the situation, tourists, mostly locals, keep coming. Perhaps, the congestion and water problems are in themselves a tourist attraction.

But to ensure that they continue to bloom with more than a thousand varieties of flowers, plants and trees need open spaces in which to grow. Continue to pour in the cement and build concrete pine trees at the city's heart, and you deprive plants and trees of good, brown and fertile earth that sustains them, experts say.

Every square meter of cement on the ground, water experts also say, deprives a cubic meter of rain from percolating into the earth's aquifers, which sustains springs. The result is more water runoff and flood, now facts of life during the rainy season even in a mountain city like Baguio.

There is too much water during the rainy days, but too little of it to water the plants at the start of their *panagbenga* or blooming season in February.

And there is too little water to service the thousands who come to watch the flower festival.

Benguet flowers breathe life into festival

By March Fianza
Contributor

AS EARLY as 4 a.m., farmers engaged in the cutflower industry in Barangay Bahong in La Trinidad, Benguet, brave the temperature at 13 degrees Centigrade and embark on a familiar routine of packing freshly cut red and yellow roses in Styrofoam boxes.

Farmers in Bahong and the adjoining villages of Alno, Lubas, Alapang, Shilan and Ambiong, 8 kilometers north of Baguio City, have concentrated on propagating flowers for commercial sale, along with highland vegetables.

Based on records of the municipal planning office in La Trinidad, almost half of the 3,100 hectares of land in the villages is covered with white and red roses of the Holland and American varieties, and greenhouses for spray mums and anthuriums.

The flowers are transported to trading posts in Metro Manila before these are flown to regular client-hotels in Mindanao or the Visayas and even Hong Kong.

Aside from supplying flowers and vegetables to Metro Manila, the town has been providing 90 percent of cutflowers for the Panagbenga or the Baguio Flower Festival since 1996, said La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan.

Regrets

Fongwan said he regretted not grabbing the opportunity to hold the festival when it was offered to the town. "But I am still grateful that we benefit from it (Panagbenga)," he said.

Festival organizer, lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., acknowledged that most flowers used for the Panagbenga come from Benguet. "I am sure there is a spillover of economic benefits and they (La Trinidad and Benguet) gain from it," he said.

Colorful flowers adorn mobile floats that roll down the streets of Baguio during the festival, which is now on its sixth year.

Flower farmers have carved a new identity for La Trinidad. The town is now known as the country's "rose capital," in addition to its old name of "salad bowl."

Aside from spray mums, roses and anthuriums, babies' breath, statice, chrysanthemums and gladiolas are grown in La Trinidad.

Roses are bought for special occasions, such as birthdays, Valentine's Day and graduation rites, while anthuriums, statice and babies' breath are bought by hotels to adorn dining tables and rooms, the farmers said.

Roses

Fongwan said clients preferred to buy Benguet flowers, particularly roses of the Holland variety, because these can stay in vases for a week. The American rose wilts in two to three days, while the Davao rose has a smaller bud.

Roses produced by the six barangays rake in a gross income of more than P7.5 million in a week. On regular market days, a dozen roses cost from P50 to P120 in the peak months, from February to June.

Fifty dozens of extra-large roses fit in one big Styrofoam box, while 60 to 100 dozens of short to long-stemmed red or white roses are packed in a box.

The roses are shipped to Dimasalang in Manila in three Elf trucks every day. Each barangay has its own fleet of delivery trucks.

Cutflower production is not a comfortable business, according to the farmers. Farm inputs are expensive, especially now that pests are developing into unknown mutants.

Tamaron and Agrimic miticides that kill spider mites, cost a farmer more than P1,000. Bed preparation for a 1,000-sq.-m. lot needs five to 10 bags of organic fertilizer, plus a bag of calcium-nitrogen stimulant.

Rose farmer Val Gadgad said that aside from paying for fertilizer and pesticides, labor cost is also expensive. "A garden help is paid at least P1 for every rose cutting," he said. A 1,000-sq.-m. lot can accommodate 15,000 cuttings at most.

In three months when the rose cuttings have grown their main roots, their nodes have to be budded with the flowering variety of the farmers' color choice, at 50 centavos per eye. This would entail a labor cost of P7,500 for every 1,000-sq.-m. lot.

After the planting, farmers have to wait for another three months for the first harvest. In one year, harvest is scheduled every other day.

Garden slopes

The farmers plant in mountain slopes at

BENGUET/p.17

Reviving Ilagan's 'old glory'

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Ilagan, Isabela

THE STA. Victoria caves and the Pinsal falls, both found in a national park in Barangay Sta. Victoria in Ilagan, Isabela, have been attracting tourists again, thanks to efforts of residents and officials to revive their ecotourism potentials.

Fidel Pasion, 40, a tourist guide and councilor of Barangay Capo, said that developing the ecotourism areas of Sta. Victoria is a community undertaking done through *bataris* (an Iloco term for *bayanihan*).

The late President Manuel Quezon established the Sta. Victoria National Park on Oct. 9, 1935 to preserve its natural wonders and diverse flora and fauna.

Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano said people from the municipal government and from Sta. Victoria and its adjacent areas were developing the area now called the Ilagan Caves and Spring National Park.

They lend their time and energy to build semi-permanent picnic stalls and wooden and bamboo seats in the area. They also haul up river stones to create trails for tourists and rid the park of weeds.

Garbage receptacles are hung in strategic areas to maintain cleanliness.

The park, originally named the Fuyot Spring National Park, was left undeveloped for years when its swimming pool (built with water tubes from the mountains) dried up due to illegal logging in the village's watershed.

Since its declaration as a national park, Sta. Victoria has attracted little attention. Only 258 tourists visited the park from 1990 to 1999, no thanks to the limited efforts to develop and promote the site during those years.

Armed with a common goal to revive the park's "old glory" as one of the premier tourist spots in Cagayan Valley, Ilagan residents and officials are joining hands to preserve the park's natural environment.

Sta. Victoria caves

Visitors will be awed by the intact stalactites and stalagmites in the five multi-chambered caves of Sta. Victoria.

"The caves were the plenum sites of the *kakadua* (New People's Army comrades) at the height of insurgency in the 1970s and 1980s," said Albano.

One of the caves, called "Twilight Zone" by residents, is comparable to the Hinagdanan Cave in Bohol.

Two other caves are found near Sta. Victoria. These are the Umusok (an Iloco word for crawl) and the Bannuang.

Visitors have to crawl for two meters and pass through flowing water to enter the caves. Residents claim that it takes two days to travel from one cave to another opening in another barangay.

Pinsal falls

Other residents said that during World War II, they hid in the caves to evade Japanese soldiers.

After a tour of the Sta. Victoria caves, Ilagan Bishop Sergio Utleg, lay leader Joel Paysan, this correspondent and two tourist guides took a 40-minute walk on a rugged trail to the Pinsal falls.

Utleg, an avid mountaineer, has climbed the country's highest mountain, Mt. Apo, in Mindanao. He also reached the summits of Benguet's Mt. Pulag, the highest peak in Luzon and second highest in the country, and Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental.

The national park boasts of various bird species, like the black nape oriole, black nape blue monarch, blue-headed fantail, Philippine *bolbol*, care grass warbler, chestnut mynah, coleto, common tailor bird and rough-crested cuckoo.

Various species of eagles, kingfishers and small birds are also found.

"(The chirping of birds) lightens the burden of hiking," Utleg said.

Tourist guides

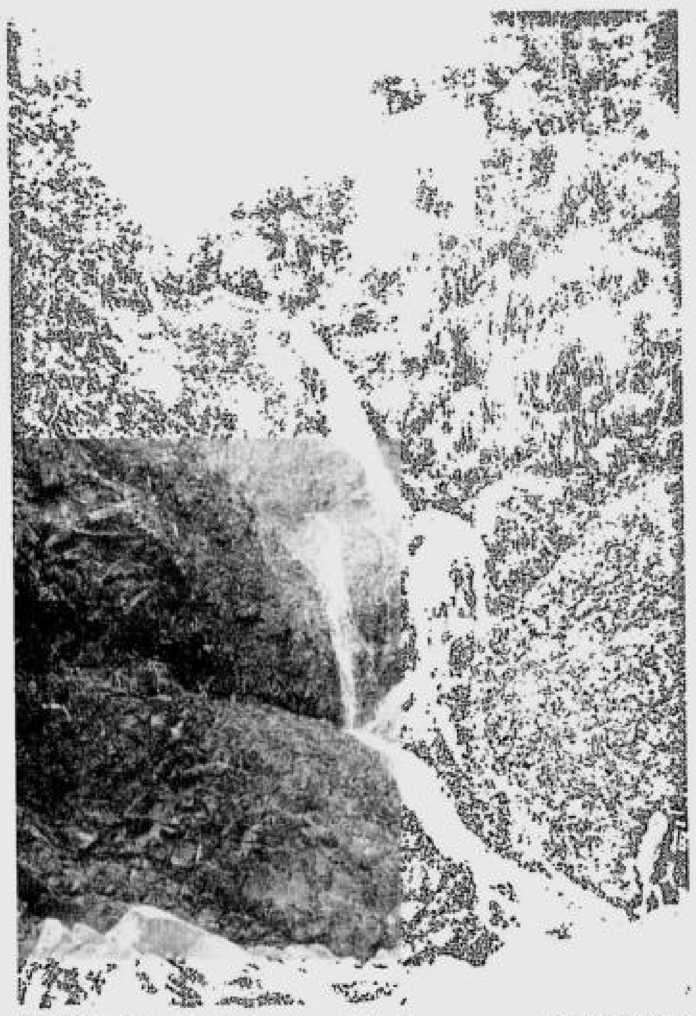
Guiding tourists has opened an opportunity for residents near Sta. Victoria to earn extra cash, aside from the occasional allowances given by town officials.

Their earnings have augmented their meager income from farming and other menial jobs.

For 15-year-old guide Alex Claro, earning at least P100 a day, aside from the occasional tips, is the biggest motivation.

While showing the way to the falls and the caves, Claro would carry bags and supplies and tell stories about his village.

He said he was forced to stop schooling after completing first year high school. By working as a tourist guide or, at times, as a farm hand, he helps his parents, both farmers, send his younger siblings to school.



PINSAL falls: End of a rugged trail.

VILLAMOR VISAYA

Pasion said he earned at least P200 every time he is hired as a guide. When he is not guiding visitors, he helps municipal aides clean the park.

Albano said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has authorized the local government, through a memorandum of agreement, to maintain, protect and improve the caves, falls and springs of Sta. Victoria.

A giant billboard declaring the area the "biggest environment school" greets tourists. Once put in order, visitors and students will be

REVIVING/p.17

GETTING THERE

The newly built dirt road in Barangay Sta. Victoria leading to the park is a 20-minute ride from the Ilagan town terminal. From there, visitors have to trek for an hour to reach the Pinsal falls.

Reviving

(From page 16)

the prime "students" of environmental teachers to be hired by the government.

"We are inculcating the value of environmentalism, not only ecotourism. That is why we are inviting students to 'enroll' by visiting this 800-hectare environmental school," Albano said.

Among the things to be learned are the proper ways of disposing of toxic and non-toxic materials, cleanliness and caring for nature.

"We will prove that we (don't need a lot of) money to improve our natural spots. If we have meager resources, (we can still) do it, as long as there is cooperation (among all stakeholders)," he said.

He said the town's four-year development plan for the Sta. Victoria caves would include a provision for a recreational area, rehabilitation of denuded forest areas, a re-survey of park boundaries, a demographic survey of occupants of the park, and promotion of the national park as an ecotourism destination.

Blessida Diwa, Cagayan Valley tourism director, said Ilagan's environmental school would be "aggressively promoted" by the Department of Tourism to help the local government's initiative develop its ecotourism spots.

"The natural park has been included in the tourism packages for summer festivals," Diwa said.

Albano said he would ask Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to allocate at least P24.36 million for the construction of roads, cottages, waiting sheds and other tourist amenities in the park.

Utleg said the development of Ilagan's ecotourism areas would be realized through joint efforts of the government and the community. "With the government's intervention and with the caring hands of the people, nothing is impossible," he said.

Benguet

(From page 16)

an altitude of 900 to 1,500 meters above sea level. At this height and during summer, water supply is low. Such scarcity, however, does not dim industry prospects.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has developed a natural tunnel that siphons water from the Balili River to a creek at the other side of a mountain accessible to the flower gardens. It later improved the irrigation systems in the area.

In 1990, Jica also built a multipurpose warehouse. This was used as a packing center for flowers, a health clinic, and a day-care center for children.

As the years went by, farmers felt the need to organize. Hence, they formed the Bahong Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. and the Domestic Irrigation Association, which market their products, manage the supply of water and lend small capital to members.

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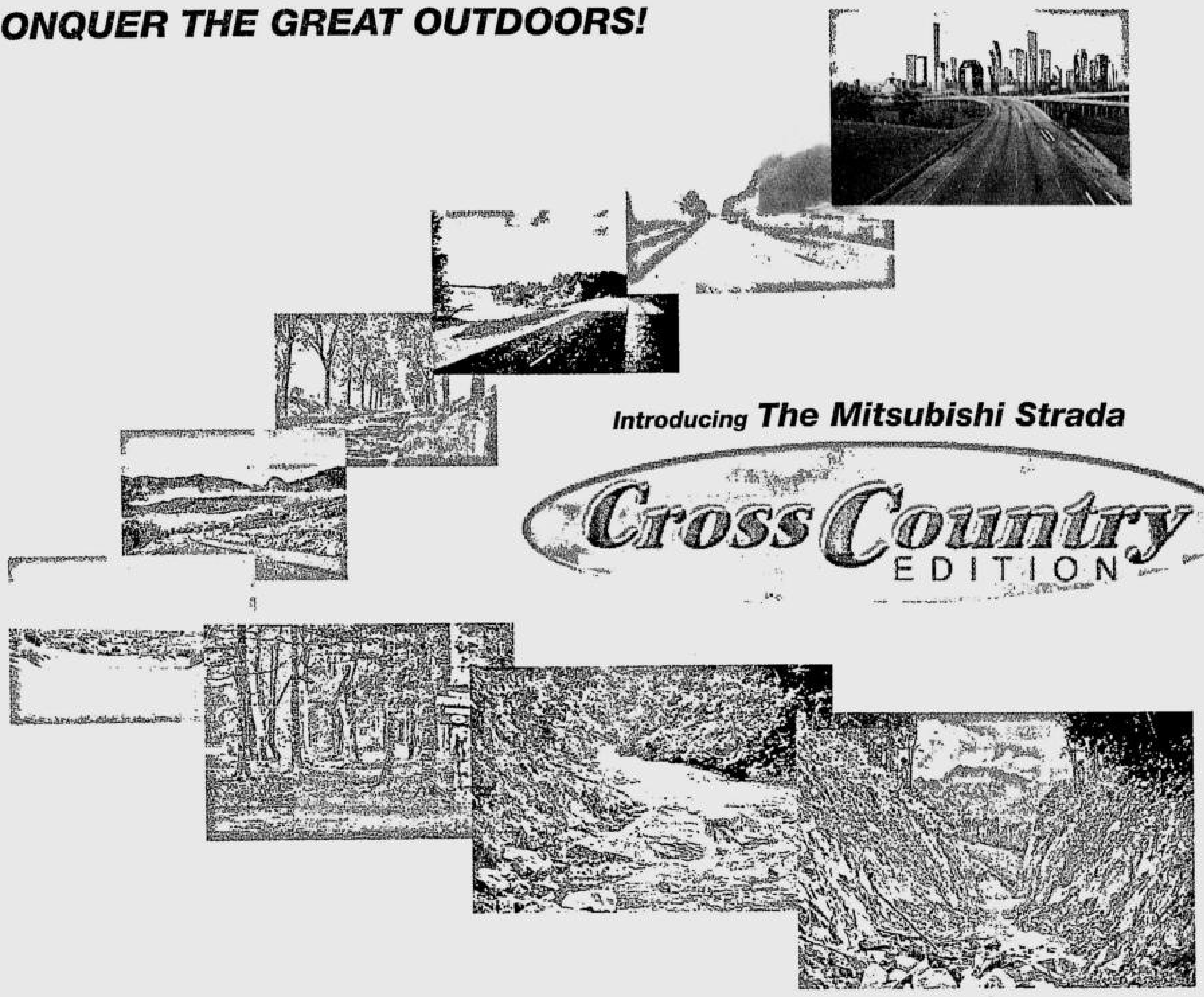

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Erap confession: Ploy or blunder

From page A1

The other acts involved the more than P400 million in alleged jueteng payoffs to Estrada, the P130 million in tobacco excise tax he allegedly pocketed and the P189.7 million in commission allegedly given to Estrada for the purchase of Belle Corp. shares using state pension funds.

Desierto claimed that Estrada explicitly admitted that he owned the P3.2 billion in Velarde account with the Equitable PCI Bank during an interview aired by ANC News Channel on Monday.

In the interview, Estrada admitted having signed the Jose Velarde account with the Equitable PCI Bank in the presence of bank executive Clarissa Ocampo and bank lawyer Manuel Curato in Malacañang on Feb. 4, 2000.

"I signed as guarantor of William Gatchalian for the account of Jaime Dichaves who owns the account," the former President said.

But Estrada told "Pointblank" host Pia Hontiveros that "Jose Velarde is not my alias. It is the alias of Jaime Dichaves and it was proven at the opening of the second envelope after the trial was suspended."

Ocampo testified at the Senate impeachment trial that she was one foot away when Estrada signed bank documents in Malacañang as Jose Velarde.

Ocampo had said Estrada signed the papers authorizing the transfer of P500 million from the current and savings account of Velarde to the trust account of Gatchalian to fund an investment management agreement.

Second envelope

Estrada said on dzRH yesterday that the contents of the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope, which was not opened during the impeachment trial, "prove that Jose Velarde is Jaime Dichaves."

"But this was not given publicity. Second, we have strong documentary evidence that Jaime Dichaves is Jose Velarde," Estrada said.

Ironically, senators identified with Estrada voted against the opening of the second envelope on Jan. 16, 2001.

The 12-11 vote triggered what is now known as People Power II that ousted Estrada.

The Velarde account was opened on Aug. 26, 1999 with an initial deposit of P1. The amount reached P3.2 billion when it was discovered by impeachment prosecutors. The account was closed on Nov. 11, 2000.

Not surprised

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said she was not surprised by Estrada's admission.

"I have always thought that it is not in Erap's character to keep on putting up a front of denial for a long time," Rosales said.

"The only catch there is that until now, he thinks there was absolutely nothing wrong with what he did," she said.

The watchdog group Plunder Watch said long detention must have taken a toll on the mental state of Estrada.

"I can only surmise why Estrada would make such a story. His depression has apparently been affecting the way he thinks," said Carol P. Araullo, convenor of Plunder Watch.

Araullo maintained that Estrada was obviously "ill-advised" in his decision to make such a disclosure.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Renato Cayetano, who are both lawyers, called the admission a "well-thought legal strategy."

Cayetano said that Estrada made the admission with the consent of his lawyers.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said that the admission could be a legal ploy by Estrada's "brilliant lawyers" to bargain for something else.

A similar suspicion was aired in a statement by House Assistant Majority Leader Del de Guzman.

"I cannot discount the possibility that the defense counsels are up to something as they will have properly advised the former President on such a delicate matter," De Guzman said.

Ploy to soften liability

Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council on Philippine Affairs was more direct to the point, saying that the admission was a "ploy to soften (Estrada's) criminal liability."

Since Estrada and his camp were in "panic situation," the former President made the admission in a desperate attempt to settle with a conviction far less than plunder, which is punishable by death, according to Saycon.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said Estrada could have been thinking that he would be slapped with mere misrepresentation or falsification of document when he admitted the Jose Velarde signature.

"He knows he'll be convicted. The case against him is airtight especially now that we have more witnesses and (pieces of) evidence against him," said Singson whose exposé on the links of Estrada to jueteng operators led to his impeachment trial and eventual ouster.

Desperate

Gonzalez said the admission could be a "desperate legal strategy."

"Assuming he (made the admission) on the advice of his lawyers, maybe they weighed the facts carefully and decided that it was hard to defend him so they offered this lame alibi that he signed only as guarantor," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, a former House prosecutor, said the conditional admission was apparently the "best the defense can do" for Estrada.

"He cannot extricate himself from the Jose Velarde account so they have this lame alibi," he said.

Gonzalez said the admission proved that the prosecution's case against Estrada during the failed impeachment trial was very strong.

"He has in effect violated the alias law," Gonzalez said of Estrada.

But Gonzalez said Estrada's alibi as guarantor would not hold water because there were enough evidence that the Velarde account was his money.

"That is a declaration against self-interest and except for his lame explanation that he is a mere guarantor, it strengthened the case of the prosecution," he said.

He recalled Ocampo's testimony that a new set of documents was prepared in the office of Estrada's lawyer Estelito Mendoza to transfer ownership of the account to Dichaves.

"If he was a genuine guarantor, why will he sign a different name?" Gonzalez asked.

He said he was surprised that Estrada made the admission because during the impeachment trial there were repeated attempts by the defense to stonewall and to cover up the ownership of the account.

Incredulous

Another prosecutor, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, said the people and the Sandiganbayan would not believe Estrada's alibi that he signed as guarantor.

"A President does not guarantee the loans of other people. And if he was a guarantor, he should have signed in his name," Baterina said.

Drilon said that because of the admission the prosecution could dispense with the testimony of Ocampo, former vice president of Equitable PCI Bank.

On Estrada's claim that he signed the document as a "guarantee" since it was Dichaves who owned the Velarde account, Drilon said that this might not be the case.

Drilon said that Rule 130, Section 9 of the parole evidence rule under the Rules of Court says that the terms of a written agreement could not be altered by a verbal testimony.

"So if the written agreement says it is an investment management agreement, you cannot alter that nature of the agreement and say it is a guarantee," Drilon said.

"All of these would have to be tested against the claim that this is a guarantee letter," he added.

Stipulation

Drilon said the prosecution could now ask for the stipulation of the facts that Estrada signed the documents, including the investment management agreement (IMA) and the directional letter as Jose Velarde.

"In view of the public pronouncement of the accused, the prosecution panel now expects the defense to stipulate that Mr. Estrada is Jose Velarde," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman said doing so would speed up the trial "to the benefit of both the people and the accused."

He said a stipulation would discard the need for the prosecution to present evidence to support its claim that Estrada owned the Velarde account.

The prosecution had prepared voluminous bank records and documents to prove that Estrada and Jose Velarde were one person.

Aside from documentary evidence, the prosecution will present Ocampo, Equitable PCI Bank lawyer Curato and former Estrada chief of staff Rod Lacquian to testify that the deposed leader used the alias when he signed the IMA in their presence.

The prosecution could have proven that Estrada and Velarde were one and the same person even without the ousted leader's admission, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo, the lead prosecutor in the Senate impeachment trial of Estrada and who divulged the Velarde accounts, said prosecution lawyers had evidence to present to the Sandiganbayan which were "more than those" that they revealed during the impeachment trial.

Arroyo said that aside from the P500 million in trust fund, Estrada also maintained a P3-billion checking account and a savings account with an undisclosed amount under the name of Jose Velarde. "Those are interrelated accounts," he said.

Arroyo maintained that Estrada's admission could be entered as evidence in the plunder charges against him.

"That's evidence against him unless he denies it," he said.

"But the admission has no bearing yet unless the statement is made under oath," Pimentel said. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno and Agnes Donato***

Estrada says Ocampo . . .

From page A1

bayan for another arraignment, this time for the alleged illegal use of an alias.

Clerk of Court Ma. Teresa Pabulayan yesterday said the court denied his lawyers' motion for reconsideration in a ruling issued at 3 p.m., clearing all legal obstacles to the arraignment, Estrada's third at the anti-graft court.

The deposed President earlier entered a plea of not guilty in his plunder case and in one of his two perjury cases.

PMP spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla said "it was Ocampo who told the President to sign the papers of Jose Velarde, the name written on the trust agreement which she bought with her to Malacañang when the signing was made on Feb. 4, 2000."

Remulla said this would only show that "there was no plan or intention of deceit on the part of the President to hide his real identity as the whole matter had been prearranged by (Equitable PCI Bank president) George Go and (Estrada's businessman-pal) Jaime Dichaves, the real owner of the Velarde account."

Not damaging

Estrada counsel Raymund Fortun said Estrada's admission in an interview with ANC "is not at all damaging" to his client's defense.

"The admission that he signed a document as Jose Velarde does not any way prove the prosecution claim that Erap Estrada is indeed Jose Velarde," Fortun told the INQUIRER.

"Records will later show that President Estrada had nothing to with the opening of this account, the transactions occurring therein, and the subsequent closure of the account," he said.

According to Remulla, Gatchalian was then trying to borrow money from Equitable PCI Bank and from Dichaves.

"But since the two were reluctant to lend money to Gatchalian, they asked Estrada, a close friend, to be Gatchalian's loan guarantor to ensure payment.

"Subsequently, Clarissa Ocampo, (the bank's) vice president in charge of the Velarde account, was instructed by Mr. Go to prepare the necessary documents and go to Malacañang to have them signed," the PMP spokesperson said.

Remulla said that when Ocampo finally presented the bank documents to Estrada, the latter was "surprised to find the bank documents in the name of Jose Velarde."

The PMP statement supplied the supposed exchange between Estrada and Ocampo that took place that day:

"*O bakit* Jose Velarde *ito, bakit hindi sa pangalan ko* (Why are these papers under the name of Jose Velarde and not under mine?"

To this, Ocampo allegedly replied: "*Pirmahan na lang ninyo*, Sir. *May usapan na daw po kayo d'yan* (Just sign them, Sir. It's already been arranged between you and Mr. Go)."

When Estrada finally signed, he allegedly told Ocampo in Filipino: "I'm just a guarantor here, *ha*. I'm not going to read them anymore. Ocampo then answered, "Yes, sir."

Documents rejected

Remulla said the Estrada-signed documents were eventually "rejected by the bank for his being not the real owner of the Velarde account."

It clearly proved, therefore, that Estrada is not Jose Velarde as alleged by the government, he said.

Remulla even claimed that this supposed bombshell against Ocampo was being saved for later—as "one of the defense team's main weapons to demolish the government's case."

A highly placed source yesterday said the Estrada camp was actually planning to come out with the very same "admission" to the media "just before Ocampo takes the stand."

The original plan, though, was for the disclosure to be made by another entity, not Estrada himself.

Curiously, Fortun noted that Estrada made the admission even though the pending question from ANC host Pia Hontiveros was not about his signing as Jose Velarde.

The question, he said, was actually whether it was true that Estrada let Ocampo into his office after an aide had told him that a beautiful woman was waiting outside.

"Well, he's been deprived for a long time of a chance to tell the truth to the world. Perhaps he felt that he had to say something—the unvarnished truth. And certainly that is what we all want, the truth," the lawyer said.

Fortun said such admission by Estrada "neither supports the charge that he amassed ill-gotten wealth. The prosecution still has the unenviable burden of proving that the amounts in the Jose Velarde account was obtained through a combination or series of overt or criminal acts."

He said no Estrada lawyer was present during the ANC interview and that nobody in particular prepared or coached Estrada for it.

Erap turns spiritual . . .

From page A1

the nation to join him in praying for one special person: Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

After the influential Church leader called the proposal to allow Estrada to seek medical treatment abroad "stupid" and "crazy," the ousted President was at first unsure about how to react.

"What should be my reaction to that?" Estrada asked rhetorically of the cardinal's homily during Monday's Mass marking the 16th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Later, in an interview over radio station dzRH, Estrada, who is planning to write his memoirs, said: "I don't have anything else to say except that we must all pray for him. We must pray so that he can be enlightened."

Detained without bail since April 25, Estrada said he now had a lot of time for praying—unlike when he was President, he said, when he could only pray for five minutes upon waking up and for another five minutes before sleeping.

His mother and other family members also visit every Sunday, with three priests in tow for Mass. Estrada is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

In the same radio interview, Estrada said he found the facilities at the VMMC fine in general, but complained that he was not allowed outside the hospital to get some sun and that he had to take a bath without hot water.

"I'm OK although I use a dipper (*tabo*) for baths and there is no hot water."

His version

He also said he was preparing to write his memoirs, to present his version of the events that marked his 30-month presidency.

He said he did not intend to make damaging revelations against anyone "except the truth because these are supported by documents."

"I'll do my memoirs and there we will show the truth and why I was ganged up upon by the rich," Estrada said in Filipino over dzRH.

He also said he would prove that he had not resigned from office, despite tremendous pressure exerted on him during Edsa II.

"Until the end, they were forcing me to resign but I cannot do it because I was elected by the people and that was sacred," Estrada said.

The Supreme Court had twice affirmed the legitimacy of the ascension to the country's top post of his constitutionally mandated successor, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, on the ground that Estrada had effectively resigned through his actions.

"Whatever they do, they can never make me do it even if they'll take away my life," Estrada said.

He did not name personalities responsible for his ouster, but said his memoirs would reveal "their conspiracy, how they acted together in order to force me to step down."

Estrada also blamed the media for his downfall. "All forms of disinformation were given to the people while I was hit all over," Estrada said.

With time on his hands, Estrada reads newspapers and books and monitors television and radio every day.

"It's not like when I was President. I was very busy then," Estrada said.

Vice president?

In the same interview, Estrada said he was "deeply contemplating" suggestions that he run for vice president in the 2004 elections.

"I'm just here, deeply contemplating, especially when I see that there are plenty of poor people whom we can help," he said.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao reacted drily to the news, saying running for office was the least of Estrada's concerns.

"I think the former President's main concern now is, one, his court case, which is plunder, and second, his health," Tiglao said.

"I don't think anybody with those two problems would even think right now of running," Tiglao also said.

Over the radio, Estrada reiterated his pledge to return to the country once his surgery and treatment abroad were completed. "I cannot abandon our country, especially my mother. (And) my children are here," Estrada said.

Palace: Take Sin's advice seriously

From page A1

in the United States.

"It's the cardinal's opinion and it should be taken seriously because he is the country's principal religious leader," Rigoberto Tiglao said in expressing the President's reaction to the remark Sin made during the Monday rites marking the 16th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolt.

"We should learn to look at the Sandiganbayan and the court system as the entity in charge of the disposition of people who are facing charges in court," Tiglao added.

At the House, Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza said that with Estrada's admission that he had signed the "Jose Velarde" documents, he should all the more not be allowed to go. ***(See story on Page A1.)***

"Apparently, even osteoarthritis did not keep Estrada from putting his foot in his mouth," Maza said in a statement. She said the admission should give pause to those legislators who had signed the resolution seeking to allow Estrada to leave.

"Are we going to put our justice system to shame by allowing Estrada to leave the country, especially now that he has admitted to signing the Jose Velarde account? Let us not show the world that we are tolerating plunderers by according them special treatment," she said.

Some 136 congressmen and 19 senators have signed the pro-Estrada resolutions, which are expected to pass in the two chambers.

A counter-resolution sponsored by Maza and her colleagues in the party-list group Bayan Muna—Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran—is being circulated in the House and has gathered 13 signatures.

In an interview yesterday over dzRH, Estrada took offense at Sin's remark, saying "prayers must be said so (the cardinal) can be enlightened."

Estrada said that he did not mean to insult the capability of Filipino doctors, and that he was only invoking his right to be treated by a physician of his choice.

He reiterated that he would return to face the charges against him.

"I cannot abandon our country, especially my mother," he said. "My children are also here."

Pressure

Tiglao noted that "in the past, it has been a practice (by politicians) to put pressure on the courts."

"The President would like to set a new precedent—that the President does not interfere with the courts even on a persuasion basis," he said.

Ms Macapagal had withheld categorical comment on the matter. All she had said was that the issue was under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan, where Estrada is facing plunder and other criminal charges, and that she did not meddle with the affairs of Congress.

Tiglao repeated this line at his press briefing yesterday. "Again and again, we are emphasizing that it is the decision of the Sandiganbayan," he said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon appealed for calm and sobriety to allow the Sandiganbayan to hear dispassionately the issue of whether to allow Estrada to leave for medical treatment.

"I appeal to both sides, for and against the Estrada petition, to refrain from further stoking the fires of controversy by publicly commenting on (its) merits," Drilon told Senate reporters. "As I have said before, we should allow the court to decide on the issue without undue interference from any quarter."

Asked to comment on Sin's caustic remark, Drilon said this was the reason he was appealing to everyone, including the cardinal, not to comment on matters pending in the judiciary.

"What has happened now is that everyone would have something to say on the matter, which is *sub judice*," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said Sin was entitled to air his opinion on matters affecting the national interest.

"But it does not mean lawmakers have to follow (Sin) on matters that do not involve faith and morals," he said.

Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, said Sin's remark was "unchristian, uncalled for and uncompassionate."

"Being a cardinal, Sin should have not made that sermon because he has always been anti-Erap, and his pastoral letters always tend to humiliate Erap," she added.

On the defensive

Estrada's Jose Velarde admission put the signatories to House Resolution No. 437 on the defensive. But they did not waver in their stance.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, principal author of the resolution, said: "If it's true that he made those statements, he should be allowed to leave because he is very honest."

Dilangalen took issue with the comment that Estrada's admission was self-incriminating.

"He's a very intelligent guy," the lawmaker said. "He would not make a statement that would incriminate him. If he knows the consequences and still said it, it means the fellow must be very honest. That reflects the true character of the guy and should warrant his immediate departure for surgery."

Dilangalen also said he considered Sin's remark—that allowing Estrada to go would be "stupid" and "crazy"—as "insignificant, considering his age."

He said he was taking Sin's comment with a grain of salt.

"I really don't mind that statement because my resolution was signed by the most liberal, broad-minded and intelligent members of Congress," he added.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales, another signatory and a member of the House prosecution panel at the Estrada impeachment trial, noted that in law, those who lied once could be generally regarded as a liar.

But Gonzales was willing to call Estrada a liar only with regard to the Jose Velarde account, and not on his promise to come back if allowed to leave the country.

"His lying on this thing (Jose Velarde) has nothing to do with his knees," Gonzales said, adding:

"He may be lying about his knees but not on his pledge to come back."

Gonzales conceded, however, that "all this lying is not good for Erap."

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, coauthor of the resolution, took Sin's remark as part of the democratic atmosphere.

But Gonzales expressed disagreement with Sin, pointing out that the cardinal was wrong in saying that the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was allowed to leave the country.

Marcos was "booted out" by then President-to-be Corazon Aquino, Gonzales said, adding that in Estrada's case, the ex-President had asked to be allowed to leave but the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan objected.

Forgiveness

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta called on Sin to reflect on the message of Pope John Paul II to the Catholic faithful last month.

She said that while she respected Sin's stance in opposing Estrada's proposed trip abroad, the Pope himself had said that true peace rested on commitment to justice and readiness to forgive.

"The Pope stressed in his far-reaching message that forgiveness is necessary because human justice is subject to frailty and to the pressures of individual and group egoism," she said.

Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said Sin's remark "does not speak well of a member of the Church."

"It is divisive when the cardinal puts down people with contrary view," Biazon added.

Fr. Jose Dizon, a leader of PlunderWatch and of the Workers Assistance Center in Cavite, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the signatories to the pro-Estrada resolutions, "particularly the pro-impeachment legislators," were guilty of "political opportunism of the worst kind."

Bani Cambronero, regional head of Bayan Muna-Southern Tagalog said the resolutions were "a dilatory tactic and a move to evade justice and early conviction for the crime of plunder."

Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, co-convenor of Kompil-Laguna, said Estrada's plan to go abroad was "another dubious move" to evade justice.

"His knee surgery can easily be done here. It's becoming very clear that they are simply buying time, which is running out," Bitoon said.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla downplayed fears that Estrada would not return if allowed to leave.

He said these fears were "premature" as the Sandiganbayan had yet to decide on the matter.

"(Opposition groups) are imagining that there would be difficulties once (Estrada) leaves," Padilla said, adding:

"In the first place, he can hardly run. Besides, he is so popular that wherever he goes, it will always be easy (for the government) to determine his whereabouts.

"The government can put in place the proper precautions so that we can all be assured of his return. If it cannot even guarantee that, then this government must be really lousy." ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - LA Lakers vs Milwaukee Bucks at 9 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Big Ten Wildcard Game at midnight on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Touchstone Energy Tucson Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2002 at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Kroger St. Jude Semifinals at midnight (r) on Star

Blazers subdue Sixers

PHILADELPHIA—Rasheed Wallace had 29 points and 10 rebounds as Portland beat Philadelphia, 88-83, in the NBA Monday night for its season-high sixth game in succession. Scottie Pippen led a fourth-quarter comeback for the Trail Blazers, scoring 11 points in an 18-2 run that helped Portland overcome a nine-point deficit. In other games, Minnesota thumped Charlotte, 97-92, and LA Clippers whipped Memphis, 90-77. *AP*

55TH PAL INTERCLUB

Canlubang starts quest for 2 records

By Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Canlubang's aim to score two distinct records will start today as the 55th PAL Interclub Golf Championship blasts off at both the Bacolod GCC and Negros Occidental GCC here.

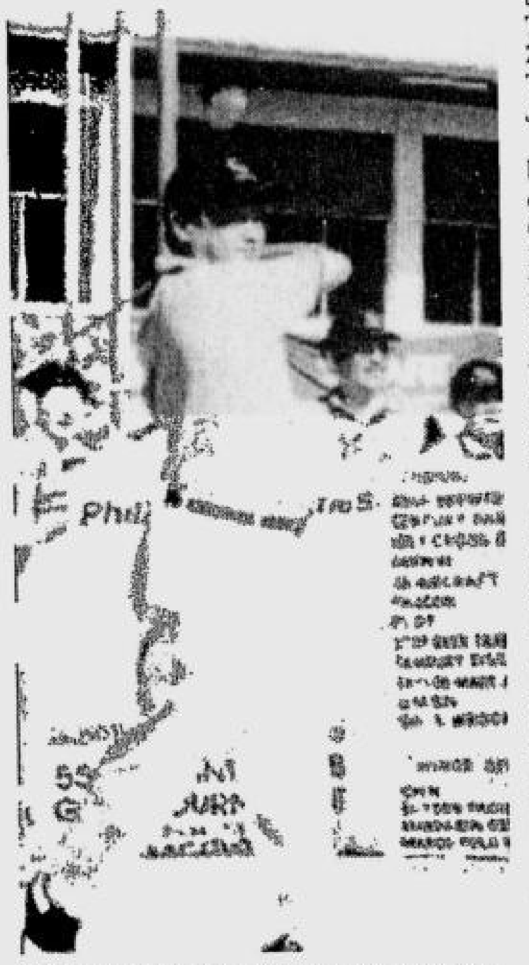
With a victory this year, Canlubang will become the first to score a "three-peat" twice and at the same time register a record 11th title in the fabled PAL golfest.

But to achieve that, Canlubang will have to parry the blows from usual contenders Luisita and CAP-Southwoods.

The three-cornered fight still favored Canlubang, the "three-peat" champions in 1994, 1995 and 1996 in the five-to-play, four-to-count format that gives 3 points to a birdie, 2 to a par and 1 to a bogey.

Before that, Luisita registered its own "three-peat" in 1991, 1992 and 1993 in this national golf team championship first won by Wack Wack in the 1948 inaugurals.

"Of course, Canlubang is strong on paper," said Canlubang captain Luigi Yulo. "But in my book, the chief title contender this year is Luisita."



HENRY So Uy, EVP-Philippine Airlines, hits the ceremonial tee-off. JESS YUSON

Rudy Samson, who had steered Luisita to its 10th PAL Seniors crown on Sunday in the tournament's 16-year history, said his Luisita regular men's team "is a combination of promise and experience."

That observation was echoed by Jeric Hechanova, CAP-Southwoods' team manager. But he referred to a different team.

"Canlubang is still the team to beat," said Hechanova, who helped map the strategy that powered CAP-Southwoods to victory in 1999. "Its experience is backed by a bunch of promising young ones."

Ageless Tommy Manotoc is back in the Canlubang lineup after a one-year absence. His fellow veteran teammates are Dave Hernandez, Abe Rosal and Rolly Viray.

They will be joined in the hunt by 2001 SEA Games gold medalist Juvic Pagunsan, Solomon Gines, J.R. Tanpinco, Boyet Zaragosa, Ronnie Torrecampo and Jun Bernis.

Southwoods boasts of national champions Angelo Que and Artemio Murakami, Jerome Delariarte, Cookie La'O, Juami Rocha, Lyndon Barril, Erwin Vinluan, Jun Jun Plana, Montito Garcia and Hanson So Jr.

Luisita, an eight-time champion, has Francis Gaston, Iggy Clavecilla, Jinky Tuason, Emilio Tuason, Jojo Guingona and young guns Jay Bayron, Marvin Dumandan, Gene Bondoc, Jojo Fernando and Anthony Fernando.

Last year, Luigi Yulo's charges equalled Bacolod's record of 10 titles in the tournament's 54th staging in Cebu City.

Aside from the Championship Division, also to be contested are trophies in the Founders, Sportswriters and Friendship Divisions in the four-day series that has attracted a record 72 teams, including contingents from the United States, Guam, Hawaii and Canada.

Cebu won last year's Founders over Negros, Apo over Iligan in the Sportswriters and San Juanico over Iloilo in the Friendship.

PAL Hall of Fame

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Even as Tommy Manotoc was absent last year, Canlubang was still too powerful for the field in the PAL Interclub in Cebu. With Manotoc back, all the more that Canlubang could posibbly inflict havoc on the opposition. Tommy is one golfer who defies Father Time like no other.

Canlubang, the Cinderella winner in 1977, scored 128-137-135-127=527 to beat CAP-Southwoods (112-138-134-131=515) last year. Luisita was third with 117-131-130-125=503.

Notice that puny 112 on opening day for CAP-Southwoods, the 1999 champion. It was such a bad start that in the next three days, CAP-Southwoods spent the rest of the week trying to overhaul that huge 16-point deficit in Day One.

We call that false start. And, as in every false start, one committing it suffers severe consequences.

In the PAL Interclub, you have 10 players to employ each day for four days. Each player will have to complete 36 holes.

Actually, 90 percent of PAL Interclub competition is fielding. You need to have that uncanny ability to select the "Fab Five" each day of the four-day event. You make one mistake, and it could be it. It's like seeing a conductor wielding his baton in one whiff of a miscue and what do we hear next? A symphony of disharmonious proportions.

In my book, Luigi Yulo is one of the best team captains in PAL Interclub history—if not the best. Through the years that I've seen him "wield the baton," he seemed flawless. In two decades or so of skippering Canlubang, he has won 10. Boy, if Canlubang wins again this year, PAL people, led by PAL bigwig Henry So-Uy, should enshrine Luigi to the PAL Interclub Hall of Fame.

Again, Henry, what do you think?

***

Congratulations to Alice Andrada, treasurer of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. She won the Senior Division title of the Thailand Amateur Open Championship on Sunday in Bangkok.

Here's to excellence.

Another one deserving of a pat in the back is Teddy Bolivar, a dear buddy of my golf buddy Ed Mapa. Teddy, presently a logistics/accounts processing assistant of Pilipinas Shell, has helped ensure that sportswriters covering the PAL Interclub here are well-driven to both their places of work and leisure.

Cheers, Teddy.

Parks sparks Spring win; Lhuillier, Guardo triumph

CEBU City—Seven-time PBA best import Bobby Parks displayed his old, deadly form as Spring Cooking Oil bagged its third straight triumph at the expense of the RP Youth Team, 88-77, and moved one win away from nailing a final seat in the Cebu Basketball League President's Cup at the Cebu Coliseum.

The 40-year-old Parks, relegated to supporting roles in the team's previous victories, stepped up in offense to topscore with 24 points, most of them in the second half where Oil Makers held their ground in the face of the Nationals' repeated uprisings.

Parks, who has chosen to remain in the local basketball scene even after those seven best imports in his many years in the PBA, was ably backed by Carlo Espiritu and Joel Co who scored 17 points each and Mike Buendia who doled out 12.

Spring needs only to win one of its two elimination games against ML Kwarta Padala and Osaka Iridology.

Both ML Kwarta and Osaka suffered second losses after three games.

ML Kwarta absorbed a 78-92 defeat from sister team M. Lhuillier Jewelers, while Osaka lost to Guardo-Pampanga Stars, 58-77.

M. Lhuillier rode on the heroics of point guard Aldric Reyes who poured in 10 of his 12 points in the final quarter.

Hapee-RP Team turns back Coca-Cola

GAMETOMORROW: (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Talk N Text vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

HAPEE-RP Team woke up from a deep slumber to turn back Coca-Cola, 87-77, last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Ironically, Jeffrey Cariaso and Rudy Hatfield, two of Coke's mainstays in the regular conference, finished their mother team off as the Nationals picked up their second victory after three starts.

Cariaso and Hatfield scored 10 of the last 12 points of Hapee-RP Team which battled back from a 28-point deficit.

HAPEE/A20

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Bullish

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"IT'S really nice to have a pair of imports like Joe and Julius. They are blending well with the local players so that, the team is now bristling with confidence."

Thus said Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after the Thunder rolled past RP-Selecta, 80-69, last Sunday at the Philsports Arena to post their third consecutive victory in the PBA Governors' Cup and share the lead with Purefoods TJ Hotdogs. Red Bull earlier steamrolled pregame favorite Shell, 94-81, and newcomer Federal Express, 107-99, in this season-opening conference of the Philippine Basketball Association.

"Joe (Bunn) and Julius (Nwosu) are fast becoming the best import combination in this conference," said the 42-year-old Guiao, "because they complement each other very well."

Guiao is aiming to give the Photokina franchise its second title in less than three years, something which the experts say is likely to be repeated this time mainly because Bunn and Nwosu are going great guns and jelling pretty well with their vastly improved teammates such as Willie Miller, Jimwell Torion, Junthy Valenzuela and Lordy Tugade. Still, Guiao, son of the late Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao and a board member of the province at present, said it's too early to say which team has the edge in this 12-team conference, explaining that the field is well-balanced. Red Bull takes on multi-titled Alaska Milk on Saturday, March 7, at the Cuneta Astrodome, seeking victory No. 4. Alaska is 2-1 thus far, losing to Purefoods, 74-79, which at 3-0 is the only other unbeaten team in the series.

On Red Bull's initial success, Guiao credited the full support extended to the team by management led by sportsminded George Chua, the 47-year-old Photokina executive who is liked and respected by his friends and peers for always wishing the best of everyone. "He is thoroughly straightforward, approachable and honest."

And speaking of the team, I am taking this opportunity to offer a toast to Thunder player Jay Mendoza, who was cited by PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino recently for saving the life of their would-be import Mohamad Acha who collapsed during a practice game with the team. Mendoza, a certified bird lover according to sports fan Red Espiritu, showed his humanity and concern to a fellowman by applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the unconscious Acha until the Nigerian was revived from apparent death.

STUDENTS' TILT

Assisi cagers gain q'finals

By Roy Luarca

ROXAS CITY—Reigning titlist St. Francis of Assisi exploited its height edge to the hilt to rout West Negros College, 85-51, yesterday and enter the quarterfinals of the 56th National Students Basketball Championships at the Dinggoy Roxas Civic Center here.

The Doves, parading 6-foot-7 Ervin Sotto, 6-8 Jeffrey Mella, 6-7 Lawrence Bonus and 6-6 Ranidel Ocampo, held WNC to single shots most of the time to post their second straight win in Group A of the collegiate division.

WNC also made the round of 8 of the tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and supported by Accel, the official outfitter, Burlington Socks and Molten, with its 1-1 card.

Bonus topscored for the Doves of coach Gabby Velasco with 14 points, followed by Sotto with 12, all in the pivotal second quarter.

WNC surprised St. Francis with its pressure defense in the first few minutes to take an 11-6 lead. Ocampo, however, ignited a searing 17-2 run from which WNC never recovered.

High school action saw defending champion San Beda College dump Sacred Heart of Montessori, 75-66, Salazar Institute of Technology drub Southern City Zamboanga, 96-51, University of Visayas clobber Naga Hope Christian, 106-45. San Beda, SIT and UV are assured of quarterfinal slots.

Olongapo acquires Flowers

FOR sure, the Olongapo Volunteers won't be outmuscled inside the paint when they make their initial appearance in the Metropolitan Basketball Association this year.

The acquisition of 6-foot-8 Jeffrey Flowers has further bolstered the Volunteers already beefy frontline, giving coach Junel Baculi reason to be hopeful of a creditable performance when the league begins its fifth season on April 6.

Roy Luarca

Hapee-RP Team . . .

From page A19

The Nationals unloaded a fiery 25-3 windup in the final period to overahul the huge Coca-Cola lead.

Mick Pennisi, Davonn Harp, Boyet Fernandez also proved instrumental during the Nationals' comeback as they conspired to slowly wipe out a 52-70 deficit at the end of the third quarter.

"It's an attitude that we have to bring to the Asian Games. We don't mind losing. The important thing is to give it all even in the face of adversity," said RP coach Jong Uichico.

In inflicting the Tigers' second setback over four games, the Nationals also recovered from a humiliating 95-65 whipping they absorbed from Talk N Text last week.

HAPEE-RP TEAM 87—Harp 23, Cariaso 15, Hatfield 14, Ildefonso 11, Ritualo 9, Fernandez 8, Pennisi 6, Aquino 1, Camaso 0.

COKE 77—Williams 24, Ellis 22, Antonio 8, Avenido 6, Abuda 6, Manalo 5, Ballesteros 4, Morano 2, Gamboa 0, Bolado 0.

Quarters: 25-21, 31-57, 52-70, 87-77.

Pinoy runners shine in HK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S top marathoners jumpstarted their preparation for the Asian Games when they turned in respectable performances against Asia's top long-distance runners in the 8th Asian marathon championships in Hong Kong recently.

Christabel Martes and Roy Vence missed the medal standings but still got enough respect by improving their personal best in the event, which is part of their preparation for the September Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

"I'm still not in my peak form but at least I know how I stand against Asia's best long-distance runners," said the 23-year-old Martes, who is now resuming her training in Baguio City along with the entire track and field team.

She nonetheless improved her mark by at least three minutes when she finished in two hours, 45 minutes and 48 seconds behind runners from China Zahng Shu Jing and Japan Kiuchi Mio and Yoshimura Hideko.

Martes, 10th in a brood of 14 by a retired teacher and a homemaker, said she is confident of her chances in the Asiad, having crowned herself as the marathon queen of the Southeast Asian Games last year.

"They didn't win medals but that's because they are following a regimen that would eventually get them in shape," said athletics association chief Go Teng Kok. "This is just part of their training for a bigger event which is the Asian Games."

Vence could have finished better but he was suddenly got dizzy and threw up in the middle of the race after drinking a drink offered to him along the way. He finished 13th overall among 200 male runners and 4th among Asian runners.

Marave rules karting

CARMONA, Cavite—Defending champion and Futura Racing ace driver Pepon Marave started his quest for a historic third crown on a bright note Sunday against tough rivals at the kickoff of the 2002 Shell Super Karting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

Marave, who finished the 20-lap race in 19:125.702, outsped Mike Tuason and Allan Uy in the eighth lap to rule the premiere Formula-A class of this nine-leg series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Smart Zed, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers.

Actually, it was Tuason Racing Project ace karter Mike Tuason who controlled the early goings of the race until the pivotal ninth lap where Marave found an opening to wrest the lead.

SPORTSWATCH

Botor scores double victory

IMUS—Julie Em Botor demolished Zhane Quitara 6-0,6-1 in the girls' 12-under division and Roxanne Bautista 6-1, 6-0 in the girls' 14-under class to become a double titlist at the close of the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup Regional workshop Monday here at the Imus tennis Club. Botor shared the limelight with first-time Milo age group champion Akio Sy in the unisex 10-under, who whipped Charles Maneja, 6-2, 6-3; Rodel Navarro in the boys' 12-under, a 7-6, 6-4 victor past Gilbert Alza; Daniel Macalino in the boys' 14-under over Jopy Mamawal 6-3, 6-3; Nestor Celestino Jr. in the boys' 16-under, who downed Boris Chavez, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1; and local pride Tracy Baustista in the girls' 18-under brackets, 1 6-2, 6-3 winner over Kristel Samala. On hand to award the Milo trophies in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids to the winners were Cavite tennis patron and Imus Tennis Club president David Alarcon, officer JQ Quintana and GAB commissioner Angel Bautista.

Roligon 4-cock derby today

THE SUMMER Heat sa Mega 4-Cock Derby blasts off today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Among the popular cocker-breeders who will participate in this derby are Tony Lasala, Buddy Robregado, lawyer Boni Gomez, Col. Arthur Senosa, Carding Ng, Alex Cruz, Jun Lo, Teddy Huelva, Bert Longalilla and many others. Hosts Tiling Capitan and Friends said for an entry fee of P7,700 the winner will receive a cash prize of P300,000. The handler and gaffer will get P20,000 and P10,000, respectively. Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said weights between 1.8 kgs and 2.4 kgs must be submitted today from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Roligon office. He also said this will be immediately followed by the 5-Cock Galleros de Manila 4th Derby on March 4 to be hosted by Ricky Castillo, Voltaire Fronda and Col. Arthur Senosa. For inquiries and cockhouse reservation call Tiling, Fred or Rezel at tel. nos. 833-16-38 or 833-22-75.

Ex-NBA star surrenders, charged

FLEMINGTON, New Jersey —Former NBA star Jayson Williams surrendered to police and was charged with manslaughter in the shooting death of a limousine driver - a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison. The NBC Sports commentator, accompanied by two men, walked through a back entrance Monday into the state police barracks in Kingwood. He didn't comment as he entered or left. Costas Christofi, 55, was found shot to death in the master bedroom at Williams' 26-hectare (65-acre) estate in Alexandria Township on Feb. 14.

AP

F1 marks RP debut March 3

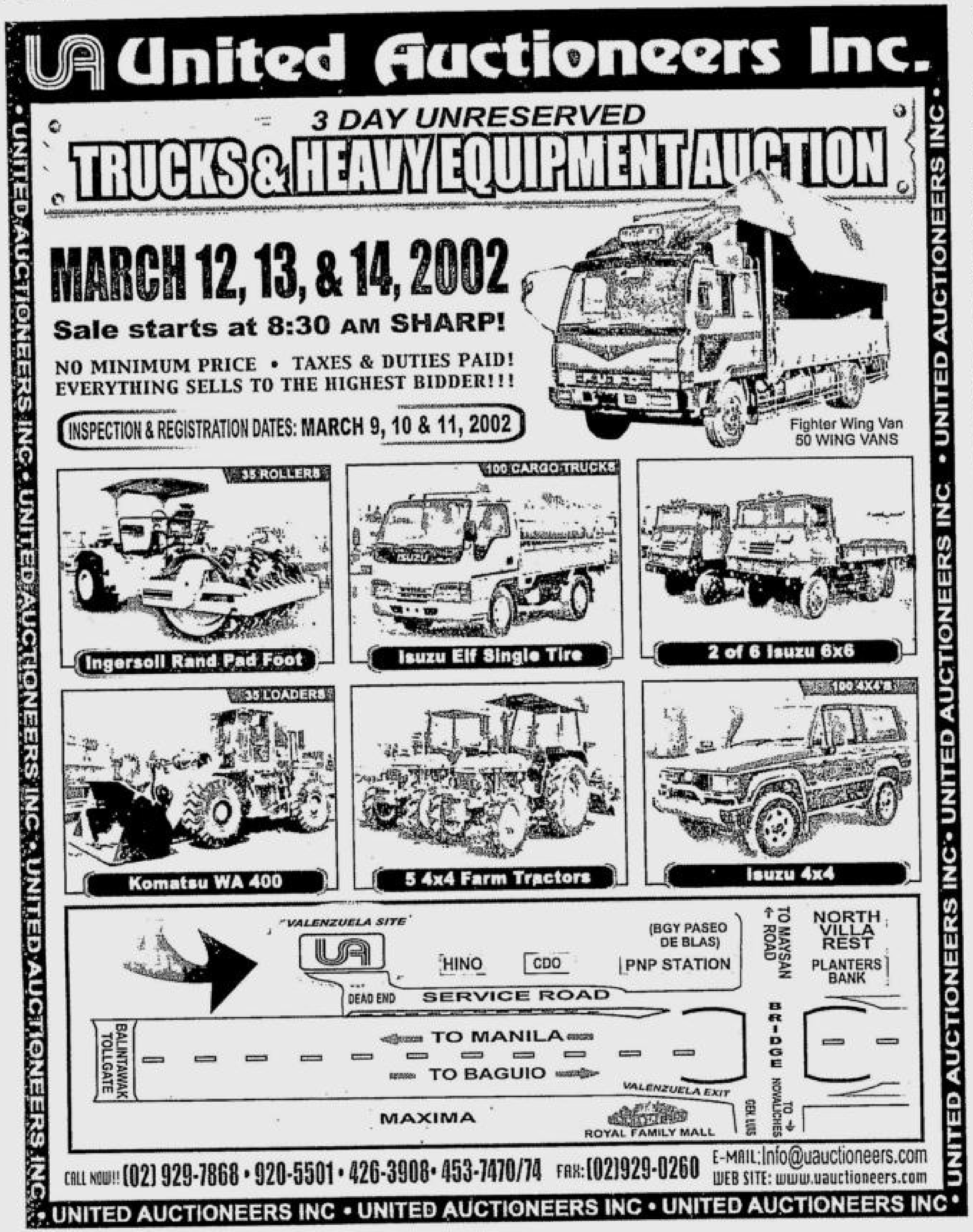
THE FORMULA One Grand Prix World Championships 2002 will celebrate its debut with the hosting of F1 Club Live on Sunday (March 3) at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt and the F1 telecast in NBN4.

F1 Club Live is a project of Xtreme Worx Philippines through Macky Carapiet, F1 project director, that has secured the exclusive Philippine television public broadcast rights of FIA's F1 Grand Prix of 2002-2007, thru PPGI HK-Monaco-Canada. The project brings the sport for free through NBN4.

"Filipinos will have the chance to watch this spectacular sporting event on NBN Channel on national Free TV, enhancing our networks new image and broadcast standards," said Mia Concio, chair of NBN Channel 4. The delayed telecast of the first round in Melbourne, Australia will be shown starting at 1 p.m. with the next two rounds to be shown live.

"The F1 club was conceptualized by friends who thought that it would be more enjoyable to watch the F1 races in one venue, with people who share the same passion for the sport," said Noli Tinio, Xtreme Worx president.

Marie Lao, PPGI managing director foreign representative, is expected to fly in for the day to ink the final partnerships between NBN 4 and Xtreme Worx Phils.. For more details, please contact Xtreme Worx at 8531631, fax 8531630, Cell 0917-8992030 or 0917-8992363 or email at xtremeworx@hotmail.com.



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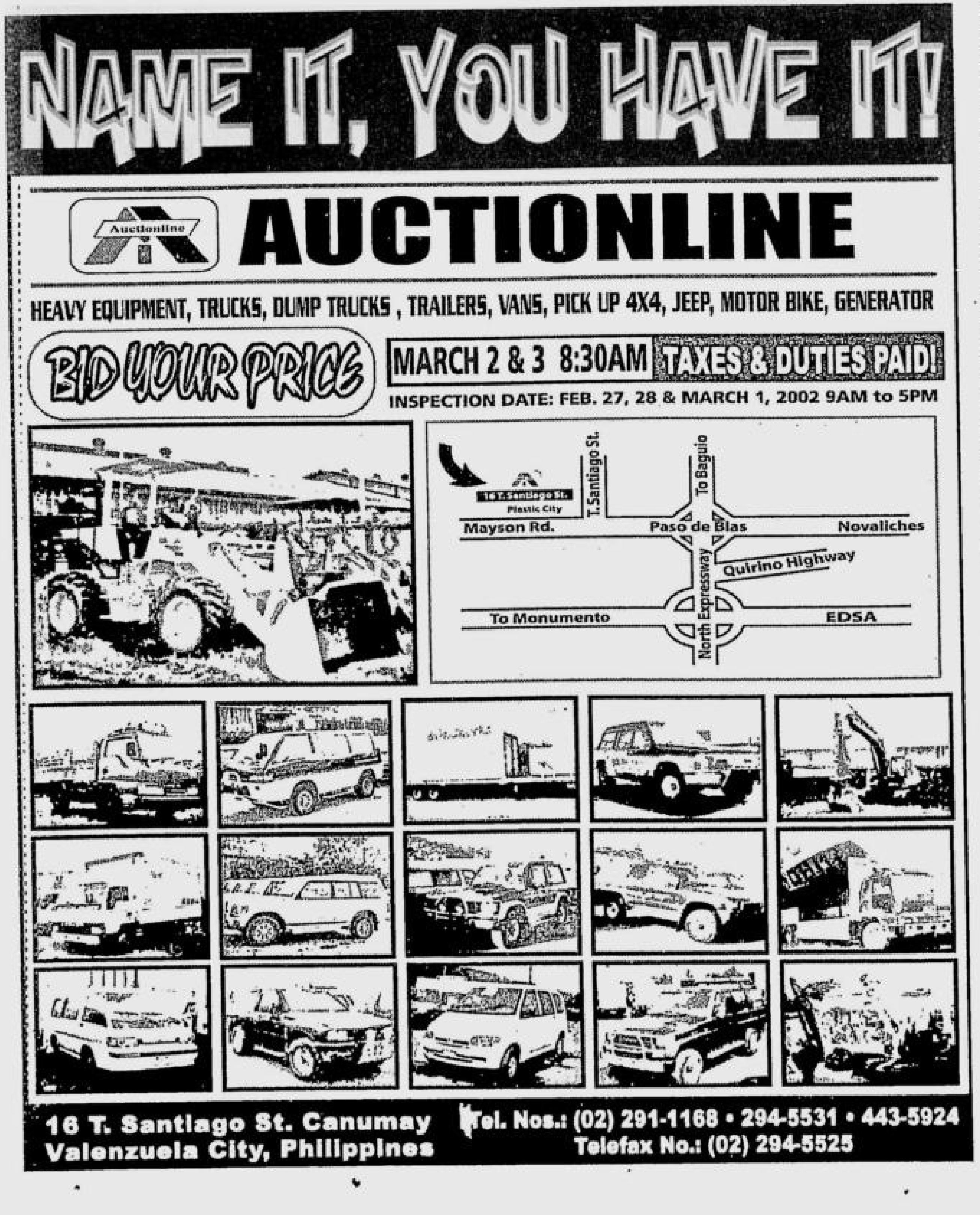

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Peñalosa faces tough task

By Dennis U. Eroa

FROM *taho* vendor to a future world champion?

Challenger Joel Avila aims to complete his rise in the boxing ladder as he trades punches with Gerry Peñalosa for the World Boxing Council International super-flyweight diadem on March 2 at the Makati Coliseum.

Dubbed as "Mayhem at Makati," Peñalosa faces a must-win situation in the 12-round bout or kiss his bid goodbye for another crack at the WBC title being held by Japan-born North Korean Masamori Tokuyama.

Avila, a native of Samar, is determined to upstage Peñalosa. "Bigger things are in store for me if I win this bout. I'll no longer go back to selling *taho* again," said Avila in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

A bum stomach kept Peñalosa from appearing in the forum but his father-trainer Carl described Avila as a "dangerous" rival."This is going to be very exciting. Avila should not be taken lightly and somebody is going to kiss the floor."

Now handled by former Manny Pacquiao cornerman Leonardo Pablo, Avila (25 wins, 8 losses, 2 draws) knows a win is going to be a big step as he searches for a world crown. Pacquiao is the country's lone world champion after winning last year the IBF super-bantamweight plum.

Peñalosa, who lost to Tokuyama last September in Japan, is currently ranked second by the WBC. He is planning to train under American Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1989, Primo Ramos clocked 1 hour, 7 minutes and 47 seconds to rule the Puma Half-Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand. Also today in 1994, Jennifer Rosales shot a 77 to win the Thailand Open by a stroke at the President Country Club in Bangkok.

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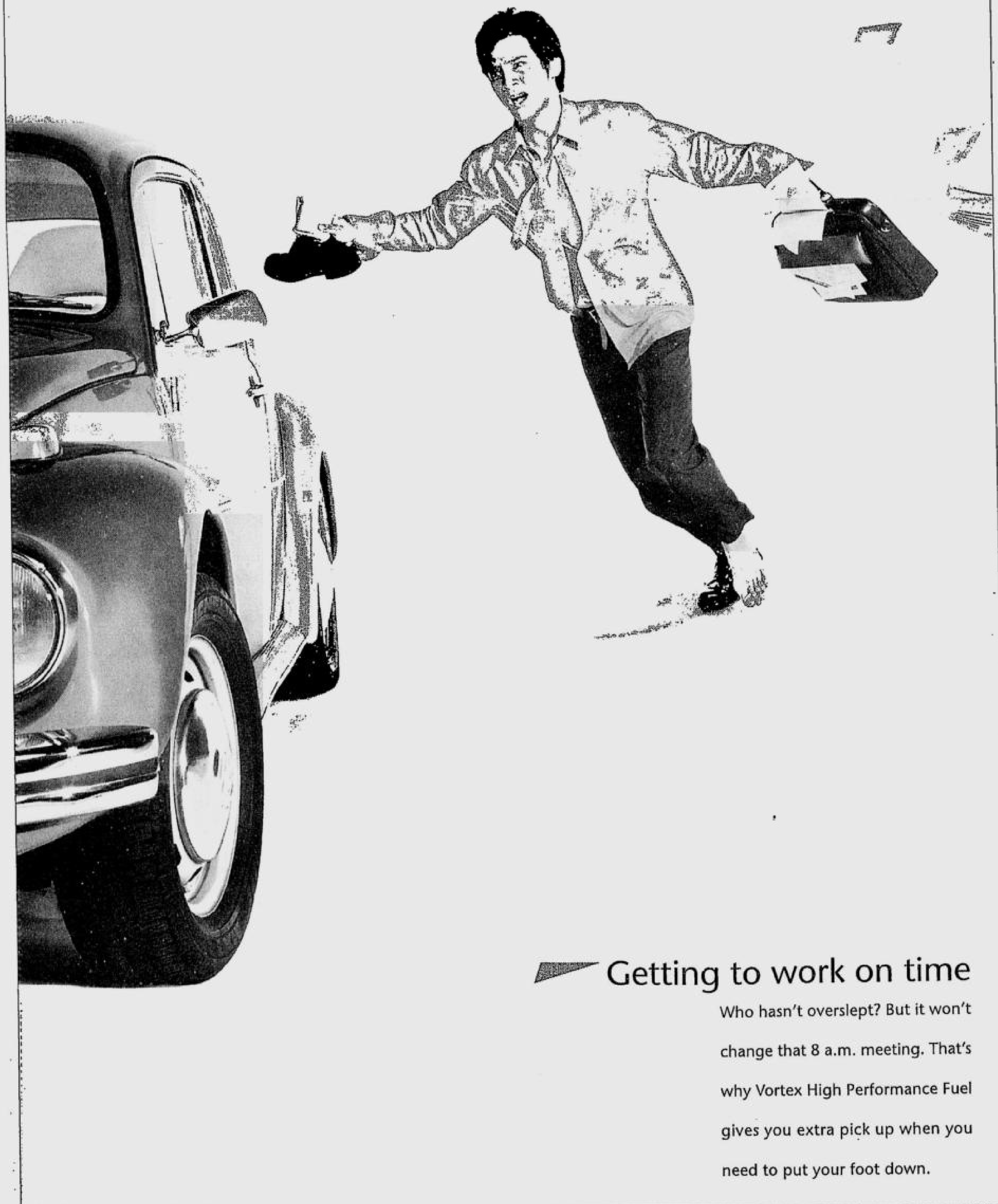

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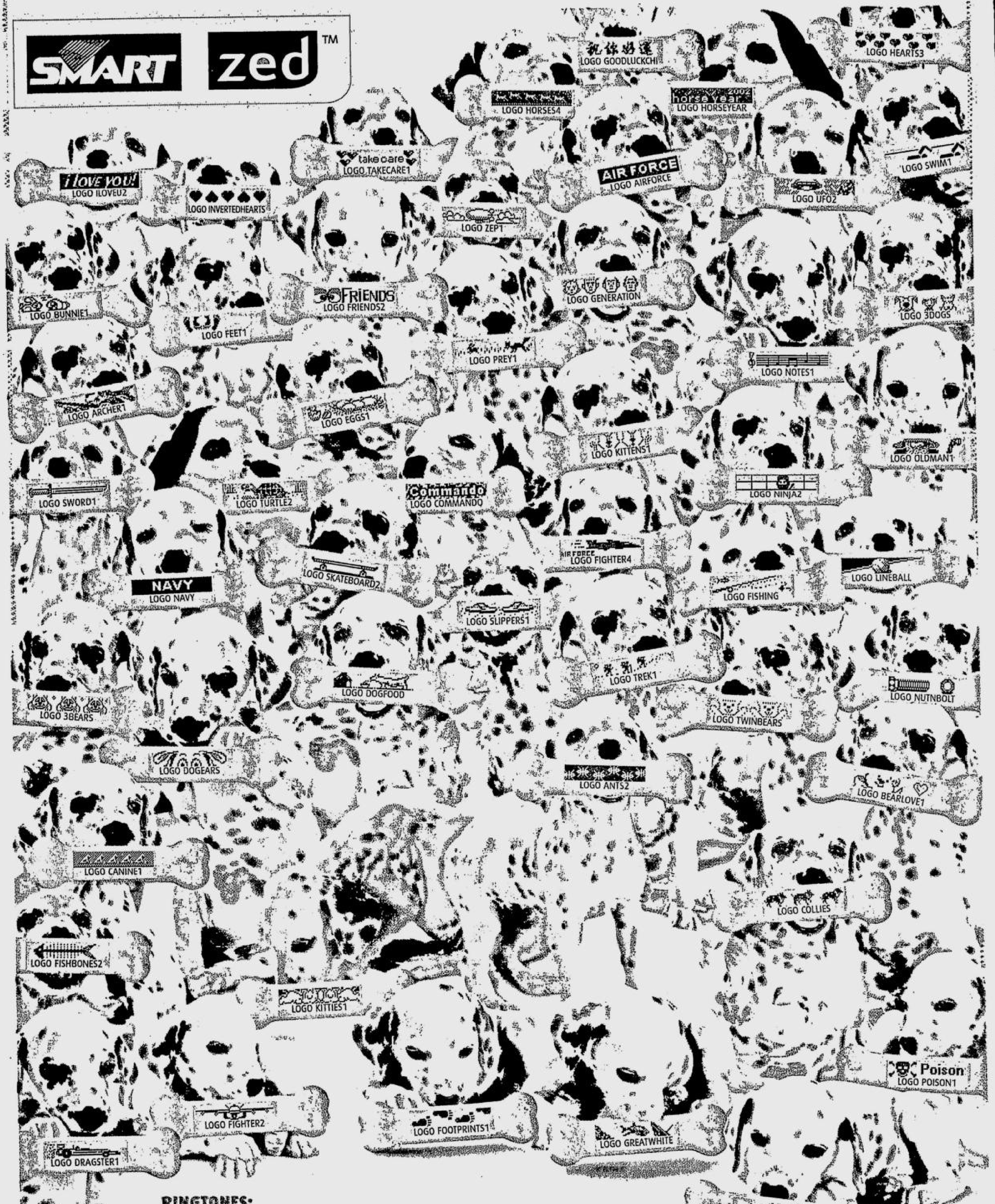
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From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE SUNNYDAY**

Waiting For Tonight*
Jennifer Lopez
Keyword: **TONE WAITING4**

Kiss Me*
Six Pence None The Richer
Keyword: **TONE KISSME**

I Don't Want To Miss A Thing*
Aerosmith
Keyword: **TONE MISATING**

Lady Marmalade*
Christina Aguilera
Keyword: **TONE MARMALADE**

Lost In Space
Lighthouse Family
Keyword: **TONE LOSTSPACE**

It's Raining Men
Geri Halliwell
Keyword: **TONE RAININMEN**

12345
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE 123**

Clint Eastwood*
Gorillaz
Keyword: **TONE CLINTEAST**

Rewind
Lighthouse Family
Keyword: **TONE REWIND**

I Will Survive*
Gloria Gaynor
Keyword: **TONE ISURVIVE**

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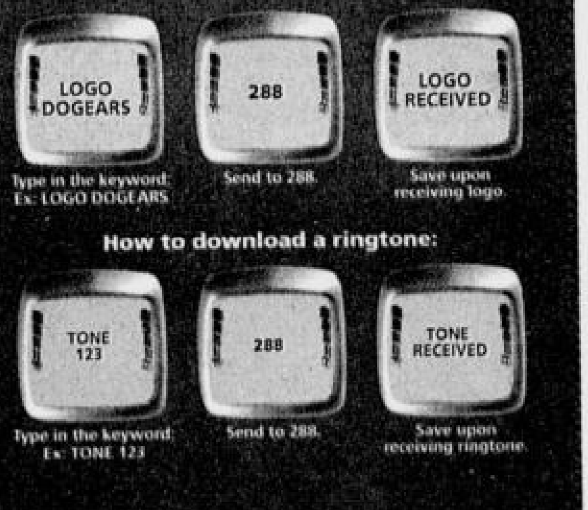
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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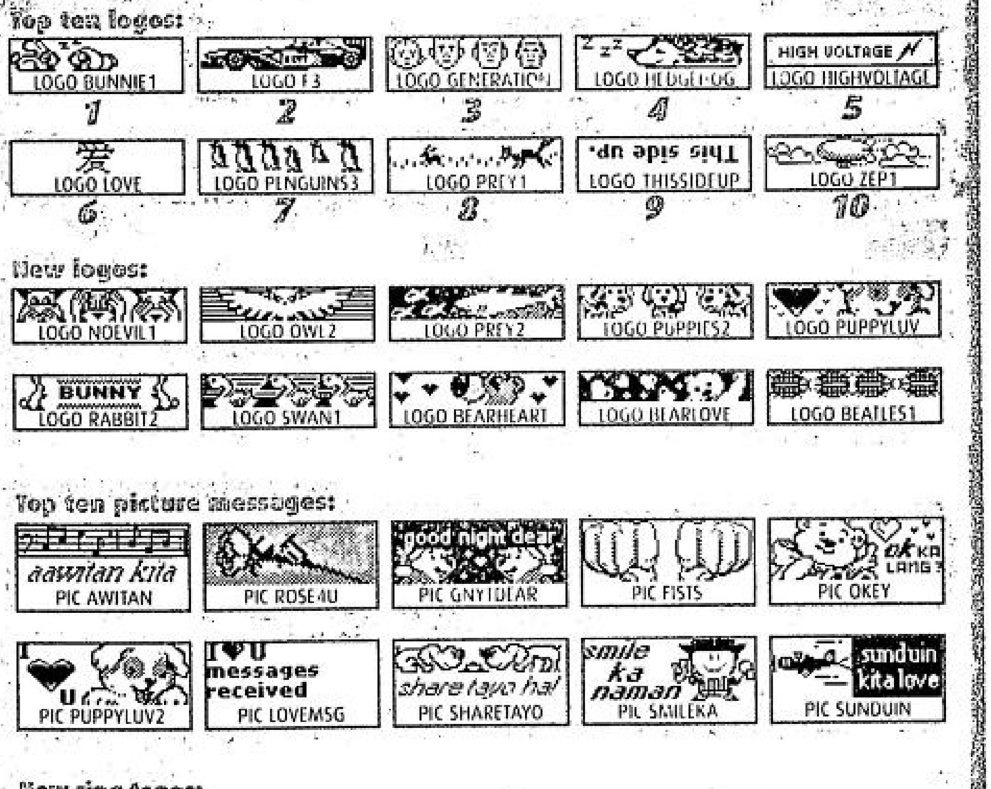
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LOGO F3
2
LOGO GENERATION
3
LOGO HEDGEHOG
4
HIGH VOLTAGE
LOGO HIGHVOLTAGE
5
LOGO LOVE
6
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7
LOGO PREY1
8
This side up.
LOGO THISSIDEUP
9
LOGO ZEP1
10
New logos:
LOGO NOEVIL1
LOGO OWL2
LOGO PREY2
LOGO PUPPIES2
LOGO PUPPYLUV
BUNNY
LOGO RABBIT2
LOGO SWAN1
LOGO BEARHEART
LOGO BEARLOVE
LOGO BEATLES1
Top ten picture messages:
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PIC AWITAN
PIC ROSE4U
good night dear
PIC GNYTDEAR
PIC FISTS
ok ka lang?
PIC OKEY
I U
PIC PUPPYLUV2
I U messages received
PIC LOVEMSG
share tayo ha!
PIC SHARETAYO
smile ka naman
PIC SMILEKA
sunduin kita love
PIC SUNDUIN

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Ikaw Ang Aking Mahal	*VST & Co.*	**TONE IKAWMAHAL**
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3	Incomplete	*Sisqo*	**TONE INCOMPLETE**
4	Special Alert Tone	*zed*	**TONE SMS**
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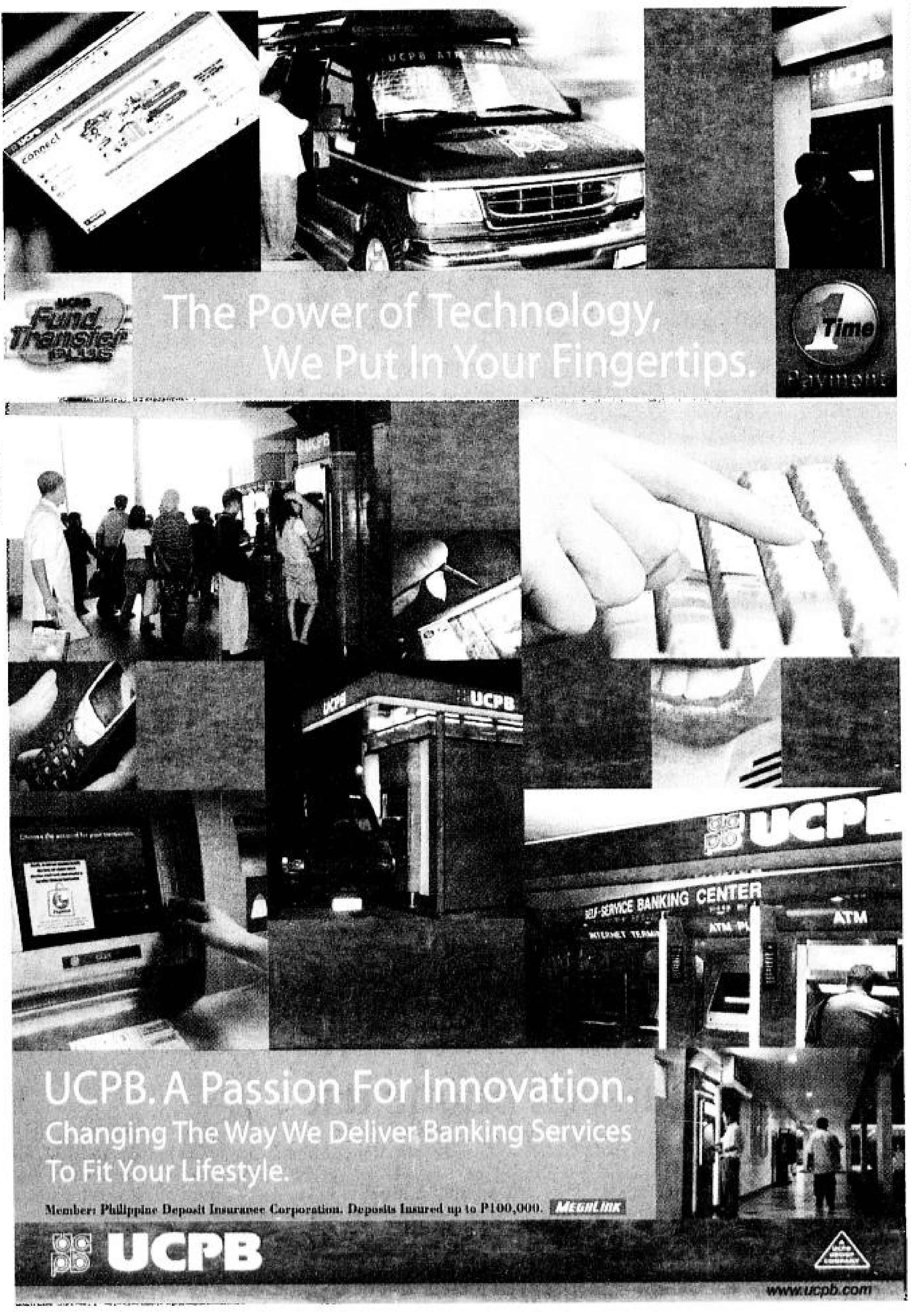
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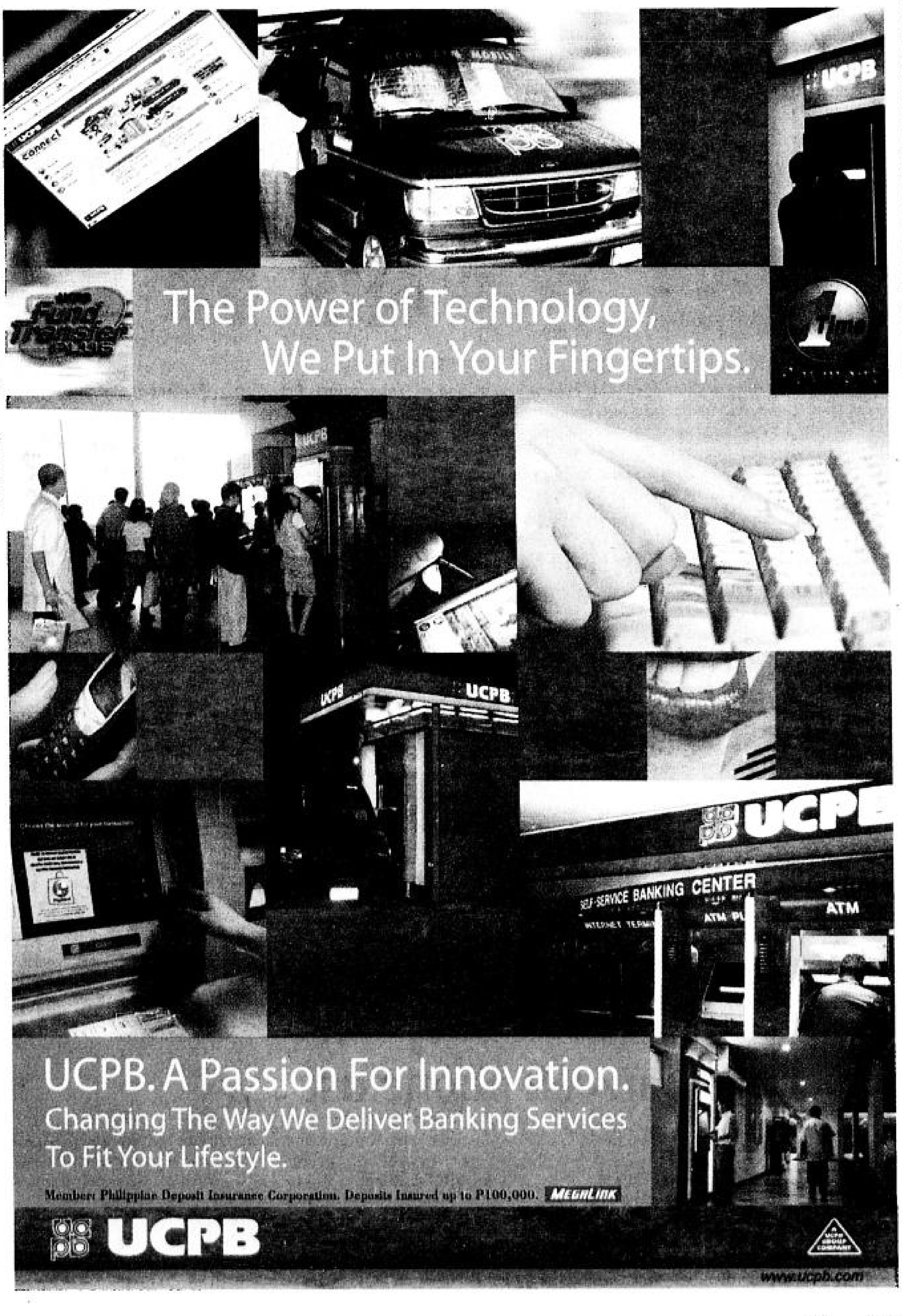

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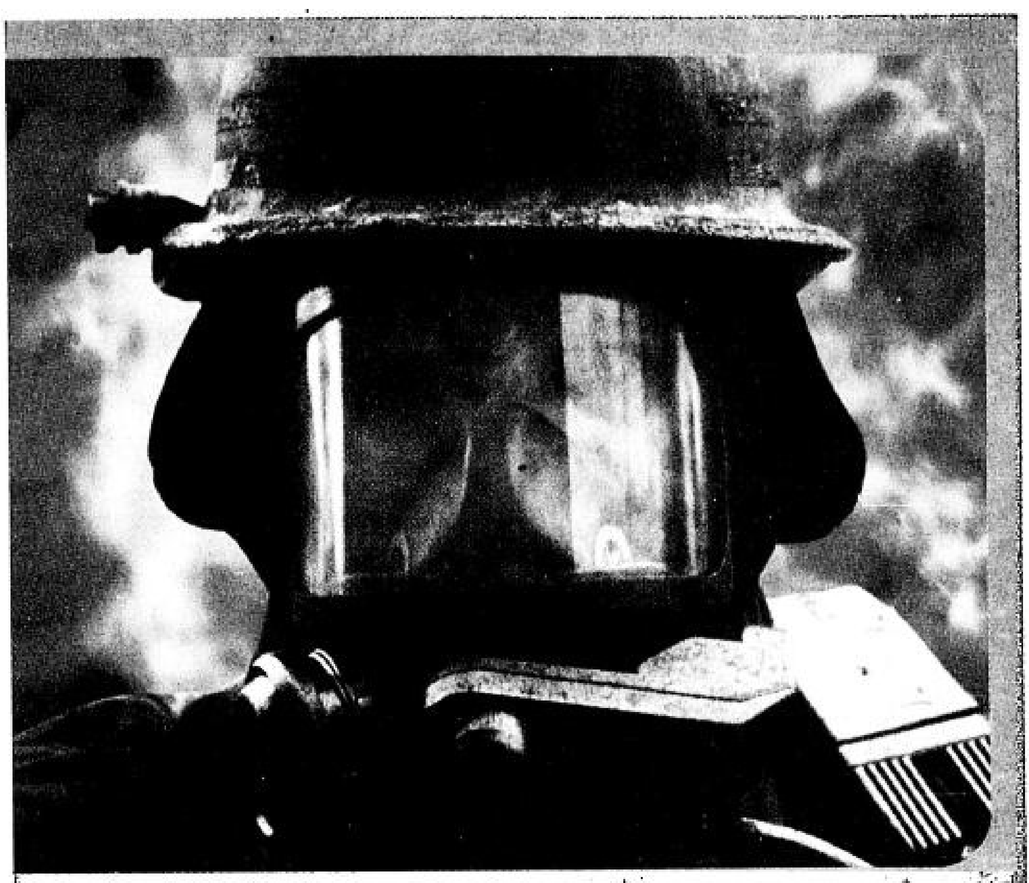

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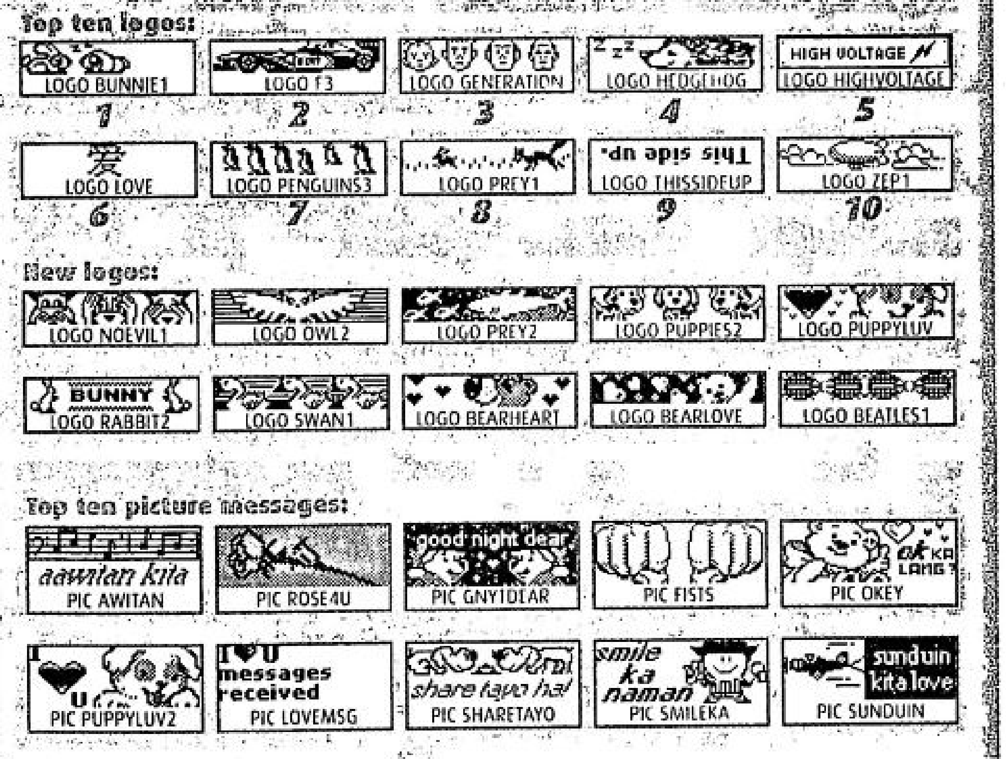

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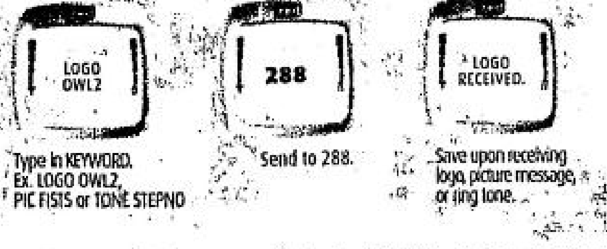

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3 Manila cops accused of rape

By Philip C. Tubeza

A YOUNG housewife, who was arrested for vagrancy, accused three Manila policemen yesterday of trying to gang-rape her when she did not have the P100 they demanded for her release.

But the woman's monthly period prevented PO3 Roberto M. Bombita, SPO1 Reynaldo Ferrer and SPO2 Danilo L. Factora from raping the woman, according to investigator SPO2 Mario A. Salonga, of the Western Police District's general assignment section.

The accused policemen, of the Ermita Police Station and assigned to the Luneta Park community precinct, face charges of acts of lasciviousness, arbitrary detention and abuse of authority, Salonga said. They also face immediate dismissal from the force if found guilty of the charges, said WPD director Chief Superintendent Nicholas Pasinos Jr. in a radio interview.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who had lambasted WPD head Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. for the presence of scalawags in the WPD, again called on the Manila police chief to do his job.

"We have worked hard to improve the peace and order situation, but our efforts are being undermined by these scalawags," Atienza said. "They are not also destroying the good name of the city and the Manila's Finest."

The 23-year-old woman who is a resident of Cainta, Rizal, told the INQUIRER that she and her husband were sightseeing at the Luneta Park about 11:20 p.m. on Sunday when they had a misunderstanding. She said she walked away from her husband and wandered near M. Orosa Street and the Finance Department building.

Instead of clearing her mind, the woman said she was startled when a police van suddenly stopped in front of her. She said Factor and Ferrer, who were on board, arrested her for vagrancy and ordered her to get into the vehicle. There were 8 other men and women, who were also arrested, inside the van, the woman said.

"I got scared so I boarded the vehicle and went along with them," she said.

The policemen then brought her to the community precinct near the Quirino Grandstand, the woman said. But after some five minutes in the detention cell, Ferrer approached those who were detained and demanded P100 for their release, the woman said.

The other persons had money and were able to bribe their way out of jail, she said. At about 11:20 p.m., Ferrer again returned to the cell and asked her if she already had money, the woman said. She quoted Ferrer as saying in Filipino, "So, you don't have P100, we'll just use your body."

The woman said the policemen then brought her to an air-conditioned room in the precinct, where Bombita and Factora, who were both in uniform, were waiting. They then undressed her, the woman said, even if she were begging them not to rape her. She said Factor and Ferrer held her arms and Bombita pinned down her legs. Ferrer also covered her mouth with a handkerchief, the woman said.

When the suspects found her to be having her monthly period, the woman said one of the suspects said in Filipino that they would just fondle her.

She said the policemen also licked her body while she was naked. They returned her to the detention cell after 30 minutes, the woman said, and eventually released her at about 5 a.m. yesterday.

She said she then went back to Luneta where her husband saw her crying. After hearing what happened to her, the woman's husband accompanied his wife to the WPD headquarters to file a complaint.

The three policemen suspects had been disarmed and were expected to surrender yesterday afternoon, said investigator Salonga.

LIFTING three fingers to indicate the number of Manila policemen whom she accused of molesting her inside a police station, the victim relates her ordeal to PO3 Lilia Rituta of the Western Police District's Women's Desk. ERIK ARAZAS

Cops nab stuntman in police uniform

By Nelson Flores

POLICE had a different kind of shooting in mind when they arrested Basilio Caubalijo Sunday at the Edsa Shrine.

Members of the Eastern Police District Office arrested Caubalijo, 33, a resident of Puyong Street, Novaliches, Quezon City, for allegedly trying to breach the security cordon of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the commemoration of the Edsa People Power I revolt Sunday.

But Caubalijo tried to explain to police that he was a movie stuntman on his way home from a film shoot. He also told police that he went to the Edsa Shrine to watch the program.

Nevertheless, police did not take any chances and took the suspect in custody.

The lawmen's suspicions were roused when they saw Caubalijo clad in improper police uniform, allegedly trying to get close to the President.

Aside from wearing improper police uniform, Caubalijo was also carrying a black bag, investigators said.

EPD lawmen stopped and accosted Caubalijo as he was about to enter the Edsa Shrine complex. Police checked his bag and found a police badge and patch.

Police have decided to press charges of usurpation of authority and illegal use of police uniform and insignia against Caubalijo before the Pasig City Prosecutors Office.

Caubalijo is now detained at the Pasig City police station.

Kidnapper asks for land

By TJ Burgonio

A MAN ordered the abduction of his niece last week in Marikina and later released her when she agreed to his unusual demand: Make it appear she has sold her mother's real estate property to him, police said yesterday.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, declined to identify the man and his three companions pending manhunt operations against them. But he said charges of kidnapping will be filed against the suspects.

The 38-year-old kidnap victim said a man and a woman abducted her inside her home in Marikina on Feb. 20. She said she was taken somewhere in Pampanga where she was held captive for a couple of days.

She told police her abductors released her on condition that she sign some blank papers, which were later converted into deeds of sale involving pieces of her mother's property to her uncle.

Fearing for her life, the victim agreed to sign the papers, police said.

The pieces of property included a house and lot in Sapang Palay, Bulacan, and in Missourri, United States, said the victim, the eldest of two children.

The victim, who is engaged in food catering, said she never saw her uncle, her mother's brother, throughout her captivity. She said she only learned from one of her abductors that he was the mastermind.

The victim's mother and uncle allegedly had a falling-out last year, when her mother learned he used her money to buy property in Bulacan that had no title, the victim said.

2 arrested for carrying counterfeit cash

NATIONAL Security adviser Roilo Golez yesterday urged the Mandaluyong City police to conduct an in-depth investigation of two men being members of a syndicate engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit money.

Suspects Rogelio Morados, 32; and Zaldy Tabuada, 25, both residents of Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City were arrested about 2 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Golez made the request immediately after he learned of the arrest of the suspects, according to PO2 Rupert Sason, Mandaluyong City police investigator.

Counterfeit bills amounting to P248,000 and drug paraphernalia were found on the suspects, police said. Morados and Tabuada are believed to be members of a Cebu-based syndicate engaged in the production and distribution of counterfeit peso bills, police said.

The suspects were arrested in their residence after a 15-year-old teenager was nabbed earlier for trying to pass off two fake P500 bills to pay for video compact discs at the Edsa Central Shopping complex, police said. The teenager led police to the suspects.

During the investigation, Morados and Tabuada told police the counterfeit money came from Cebu City. They denied they were members of the syndicate. *Nelson Flores*

Man killed on eve of his wedding

By Christian V. Esguerra

ON THE eve of his wedding, a 25-year-old man was killed during a drinking bout with his fiancee's kin in Taguig.

Danila Ampuan, a resident of Quezon City, was celebrating his last day as a bachelor when still unknown assailants stabbed him to death about 10:30 p.m. last Monday, police said.

He was supposed to marry Alda Bandila today, police said.

The would-be couple went to the house of the woman's cousin in Upper Bicutan for a drinking bout with his girlfriend's relatives, investigation showed.

Bandila then left the house to borrow VCDs since the group wanted to have a karaoke party, police said.

But when Bandila returned, she saw her boyfriend sprawled on the floor with several stab wounds on his body. Police are still trying to determine if the victim was killed by his girlfriend's kin.

Guard steals client's phone

By Alcuin Papa

A SECURITY guard detailed at a McDonald's branch in Makati City was arrested the other night for stealing the cell phone of a customer of the fast-food joint.

The suspect was identified as Arnel Gallano, 30, of the Grandeur Security Agency and a resident of Vergara Street, Quiapo, Manila. He is now behind bars at the Makati City jail and facing charges of theft, police said.

Complainant Merlin Maliwat, a computer analyst working in Makati, told police that as he was about to sit down and eat at the McDonald's branch in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center around 9 p.m., Gallano approached him and volunteered to clean up his table.

As he cleaned the table, Gallano allegedly took Maliwat's Nokia 8890 cell phone from his bag, police said.

One of the customers allegedly spotted Gallano taking the cell phone. When Maliwat was frantically looking for his cell phone, the customer pointed to the suspect as the man who took the phone.

Maliwag tried to talk to the manager of the McDonald's branch but he was reportedly ignored. The victim said he was forced to seek help from a police unit detailed in the mall.

The lawmen conducted a search of the store for the phone. They later found the cell phone on top of one of the store's aircon units.

Police then took Gallano to the station for investigation.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 27, 2002
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading:	**Jer 18:18-20**
Gospel:	**Mt 20:17-28**

When Jesus was going to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve aside and said to them on the way, "See, we are going to Jerusalem. There the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law who will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the foreigners who will mock him, scourge him and crucify him. But he will be raised to life on the third day."

Then the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons, and she knelt down to ask a favor. Jesus said to her, "What do you want?" And she answered, "Here you have my two sons. Grant that they may sit, one at your right and one at your left, when you are in your kingdom."

Jesus said to the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They answered, "We can." Jesus replied, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or at my left is not for me to grant. That will be for those for whom the Father has prepared it."

The other ten heard all this and were angry with the two brothers. Then Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations act as tyrants, and the powerful oppress them. It shall not be so among you; whoever wants to be more important in your group shall make himself your servant. And if you want to be first, make yourself the servant of all. Be like the Son of Man who has come, not to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

Obviously James and John put their Mom up to it; the other ten were angry with them, not her. But at least James and John had the faith to believe that God's kingdom was really coming. And at least their mother had the simplicity to ask plainly for what she wanted: "Can my two boys have the front seats please? After all, they are your best friends aren't they?"

Learn from Mrs. Zebedee. Ask for what you actually want. That way you might hear yourself saying it, be enlightened, and take Jesus' words to yourself. Or you can stand with the other ten and hope those two creeps, James and John, are listening well. But why were the other ten angry? Perhaps because they'd have liked the best seats too, but they weren't about to admit it, even to themselves.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Circumstantial evidence—Under Rule 133, Section 4 of the Revised Rules of Evidence, circumstantial evidence is sufficient if: (a) there is more than one circumstance; (b) the facts from which inferences are derived are proven; and (c) the combination of all the circumstances is such as to produce a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. In this case, the chain of circumstances established by the prosecution gives rise to a fair and reasonable conclusion that accused-appellant is one of the perpetrators of the crime. These circumstances in their totality create a moral certainty as to the guilty of accused-appellant. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Francisco, G.R. No. 138022, August 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI
R.I. District 3830
and
STR ES PHARMACEUT & MAR
Wednesday 16 Januar
nila Polo Club, For

MAKATI ROTARY CLUB IN ANTI-TB PROJECT

The Rotary Club of Makati recently launched its Tuberculosis Eradication Project that will provide complete medication and treatment to children aged 7 to 12 years. Some 980 children from 10 farm schools, orphanages and impoverished communities in the country will benefit from this project. Shown in photo at the Manila Polo Club signing are: (seated from left) PP Tony Quila, District Gov. Ernie Salas, RCM Pres. Jonny Carlos, Streamlines Pharmaceuticals general manager Sandra Sanchez-Montano; Senior Deputy Gov. Nash Pablo; (standing from left) Antonio Pesigan PP-RCUM, Rtn. Sonny Tambunting and PP Ric Libea.

WPD chief orders probe . . .

From page A23

Jr., Manila police chief, said he has already ordered an investigation of those who participated in Friday's prayers.

"I'm having that investigated," Pasinos said. "They'd be lucky if they are slapped only with grave misconduct charges."

"When I learned they were going to do that, I told them they have not exhausted all legal remedies for their complaints," Pasinos said. "I did not tell them not to do it, but I discouraged them from proceeding."

Pasinos said he offered to accompany the MFBAI officials in a dialogue with Director Edgar Aglipay, Metro Manila police chief. But the policemen decided to push through with their 3 o'clock prayer.

"They went on with it although it was not sanctioned," Pasinos said, adding that they will just have to bear the consequences of their action.

"They should realize that even when we are 'civilianized,' we still have regulations to follow," he said.

"When you join the police, you lose some of your rights. If you want to enjoy all of your freedom, then get out of the police service."

Pasinos said he also advised the MFBAI to concentrate on helping those who were transferred to file their request for reconsideration.

Of the more than 140 Manila policemen transferred to the provinces, only about 30 have filed requests for reconsideration, Pasinos said.

"I forwarded favorably all requests that I got, he said. "But they continue to complain. How will higher headquarters act when they don't get the official complaints?"

Pasinos said he will still wait for orders from his superiors on the Napolcom memo ordering a stop to the transfers.

He explained it was Camp Crame, the national police headquarters, that ordered the transfers and that the WPD only implemented the orders.

Pasinos also noted that the Napolcom memo was addressed to PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

On Monday, Napolcom executive officer Rogelio Pureza told the INQUIRER he has given Aglipay and Pasinos two weeks to implement the Napolcom memo.

Dads ban cell phone use . . .

From page A23

puts the public safety at risk.

"There is a need for the city government to take necessary steps to forestall and preempt the likelihood of accidents," Binay said.

The ordinance, authored by Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and seven other councilors, specifically prohibits the operation of cell phones within the vicinity of gasoline stations, especially when refilling and in the proximity of gas pumps and reservoirs.

Owners and operators of gasoline stations are required to install prominent signs to warn motorists to turn off their cell phones while in their premises.

The ordinance also requires Makati police and barangay officials to apprehend motorists who ignore the warning.

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4173868

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2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	13 GHOST
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5	ALI
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
7	HINOG SA PILIT
8	IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	13 GHOST
4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5	ALI
6	IKAW LAMANG . . .
7	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8	RAT RACE
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
2	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3	RAT RACE
4	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
7	ALI
8	SHALLOW HAL
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10	13 GHOST
11	HINOG SA PILIT
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SHALLOW HAL
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4	13 GHOST
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	ALI
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	MILLION DOLLAR
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10	RAT RACE
11	IKAW LAMANG . . .
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	RAT RACE
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	13 GHOST
4	ALI
5	SHALLOW HAL
6	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7	MILLION DOLLAR
8	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
2	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	GOT 2 BELIVE
5	SHALLOW HAL
6	ALI
7	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8	13 GHOSTS
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066782

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	ALI
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	HINOG SA PILIT
6	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
8	13 GHOSTS
9	RAT RACE
10	IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	PERLAS AWARD
2	FROM HELL
3	THE OTHERS
4	RIDING IN CARS . . .
5	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	ALI

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	CORKY ROMANO
2	CLOSED
3	FROM HELL
4	IKAW LAMANG . . .
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7	CLOSED
8	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3	FROM HELL
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	IKAW LAMANG . . .
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	13 GHOSTS
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	ALI

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	ALI
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	13 GHOSTS
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	ALI

SM CITY DAVAO
2976098

1	FROM HELL
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	ALI
4	RIDING IN CARS
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

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2

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3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	13 GHOST

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1	13 GHOST
2	THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3	ALI THX GUARANTEED SEATS
4	THE GOLDEN BOWL
5	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6	SHALLOW HAL
7	RAT RACE

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1	ALI
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	13 GHOST
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5	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (SDDS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHALLOW HAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	RAT RACE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 GHOSTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALI
8	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10	IKAW LAMANG .

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	
3 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	SHALLOW HAL
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	13 GHOSTS
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 GHOSTS
5	HINOG SA PILIT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	HINOG SA PILIT
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	13 GHOSTS
6	ALI
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	13 GHOSTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
2	THE OTHERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Spring
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1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
A	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4	13 GHOSTS

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	
3	
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	13 GHOSTS
7 (DTS)	ALI
8 (SDDS)	MILLION DOLLAR
9 (DOLBY)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	13 GHOSTS
4 (SDDS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS)	ALI
8	MILLION DOLLAR
9	IKAW LAMANG . . .

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS)	13 GHOSTS
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 (DOLBY)	ALI
8	RESERVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	13 GHOSTS
4	ALI
5 (SDDS)	MILLION DOLLAR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DARK DANCER
Lords	GOT 2 BELIEVE
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	13 GHOSTS
3	MILLION DOLLAR
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	ALI

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	13 GHOSTS
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HONOG SA PILIT

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GOT 2 BELIVE
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DTS)	13 GHOSTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ALI
2 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DOLBY)	13 GHOSTS
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ALI
2 (DOLBY)	13 GHOSTS
3 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	FROM HELL
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DOLBY)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SRDS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	HINIG SA PILIT
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 (DTS)	13 GHOSTS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	13 GHOSTS
4	HINOG SA PILIT
5	ALI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	13 GHOSTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	13 GHOSTS
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	HINOG SA PILIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	FROM HELL
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANAGAN
4	BATAS NG LANSANAGAN

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5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	13 GHOSTS
7	RAT RACE
8	MILLION DOLLAR
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

ermita
536-7809 to 12

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	MILLION DOLLAR
4	13 GHOSTS
5	SHALLOW HAL
6	ALI
7	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

metro east -PASIG
689-8193 / 8080

1	SHALLOW HAL
2	13 GHOSTS
3	ALI
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8	IKAW LAMANG . . .

novaliches
935-2209 to 30

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	ALI
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5	SHALLOW HAL
6	IKAW LAMANG . . .
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	13 GHOSTS

imus
(046) 471-8188

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	ALI
4	13 GHOSTS
5	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

bacolod
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	THE OTHERS
3	IKAW LAMANG . . .
4	VANILLA SKY
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	CORKY ROMANO

iloilo
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1	FROM HELL
2	CORKY ROMANO
3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	GOT 2 BELIVE
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

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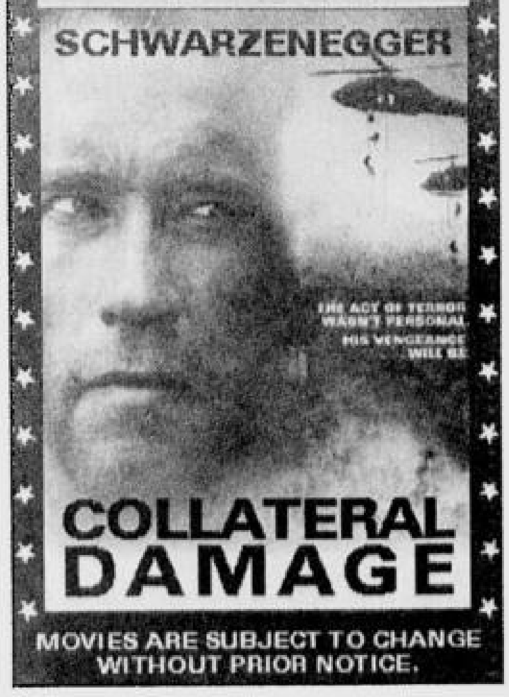

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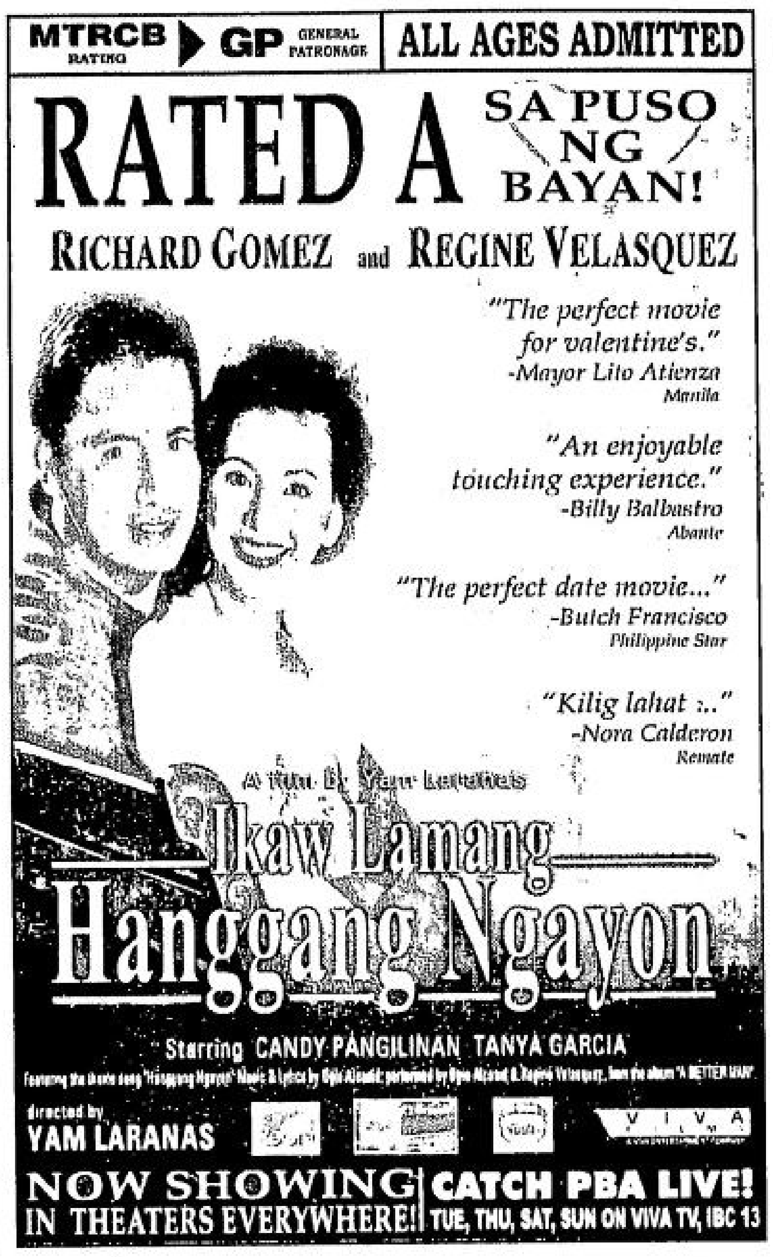
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ALI
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	13 GHOST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HINOG SA PILIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TATARIN / BOLD AFFAIR
ODEON	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ODEON-2	13 GHOST
ROBEN	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE ONE / CAPT. CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
REMAR	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
REMAR-2	HINOG SA PILIT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
B	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	13 GHOST
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	13 GHOST
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-6	ALI
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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"The perfect movie for valentine's."
-Mayor Lito Atienza
Manila

"An enjoyable touching experience."
-Billy Balbastro
Abante

"The perfect date movie..."
-Butch Francisco
Philippine Star

"Kilig lahat :.."
-Nora Calderon
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A film by Yam Laranas

Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon

Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA

directed by
YAM LARANAS

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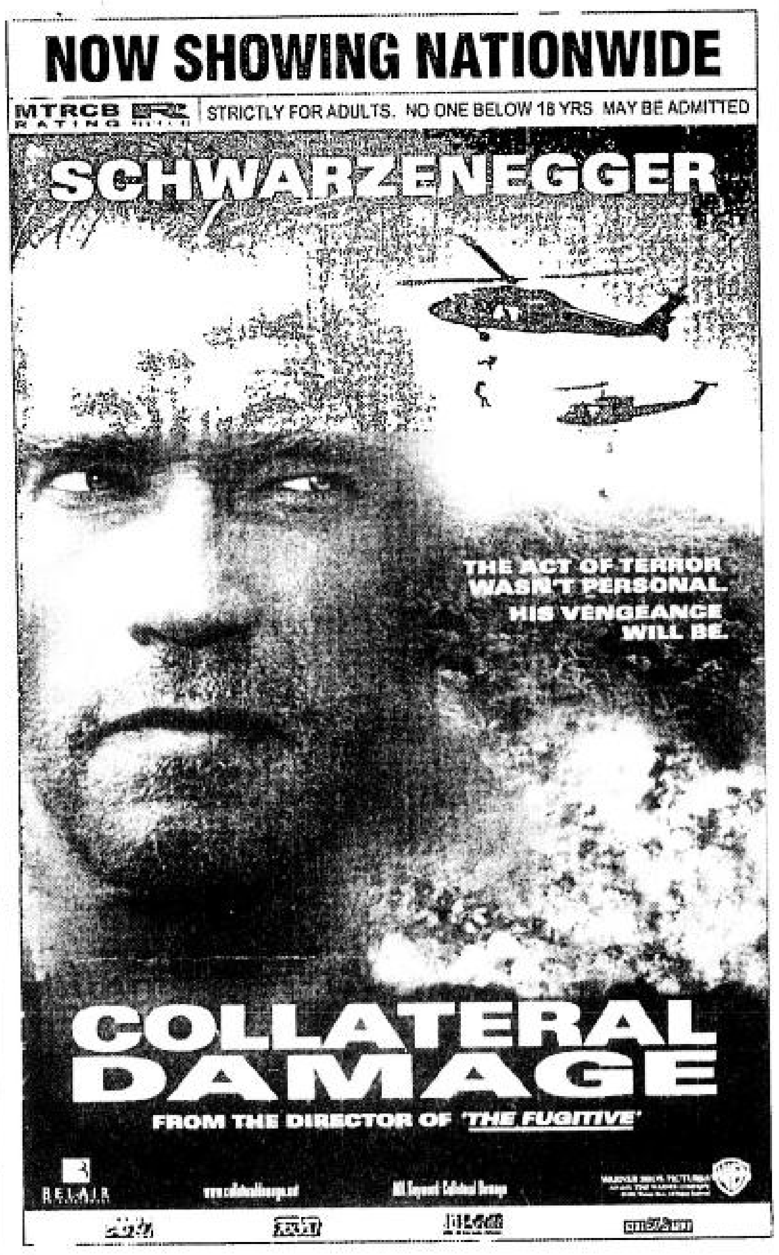
NOW SHOWING IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE! | CATCH PBA LIVE! TUE, THU, SAT, SUN ON VIVA TV, IBC 13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THE ACT OF TERROR WASN'T PERSONAL. HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *'THE FUGITIVE'*

BEL-AIR

MTRCB RATING PG – 13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

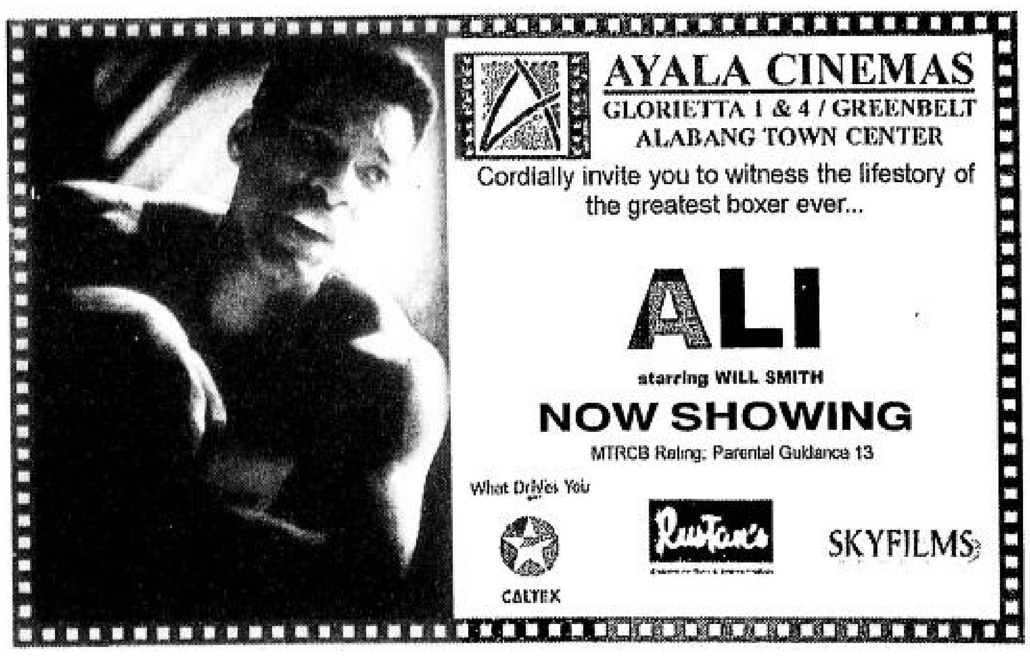
fernando poe, jr
dina bonnevie
roi vinzon
featuring
kaye abad

batas ng lansangan

MAVERICK

DIRECTED BY RONWALDO REYES

OPENS TODAY NATIONWIDE


AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Cordially invite you to witness the lifestory of the greatest boxer ever...

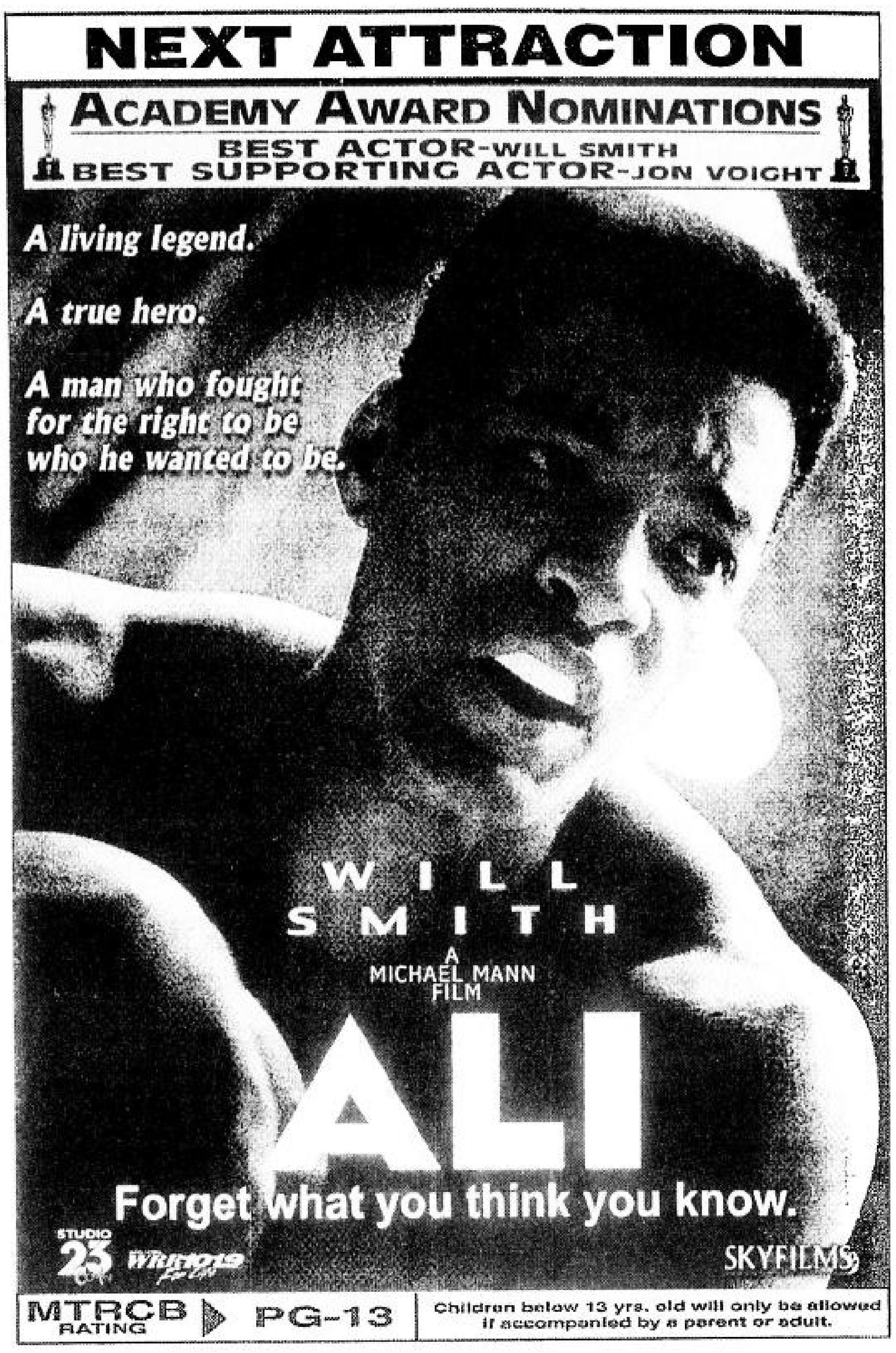
ALI

starring WILL SMITH

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

What Drives You
CALTEX
Rustan's
SKYFILMS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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR-JON VOIGHT

A living legend.

A true hero.

A man who fought for the right to be who he wanted to be.

WILL SMITH

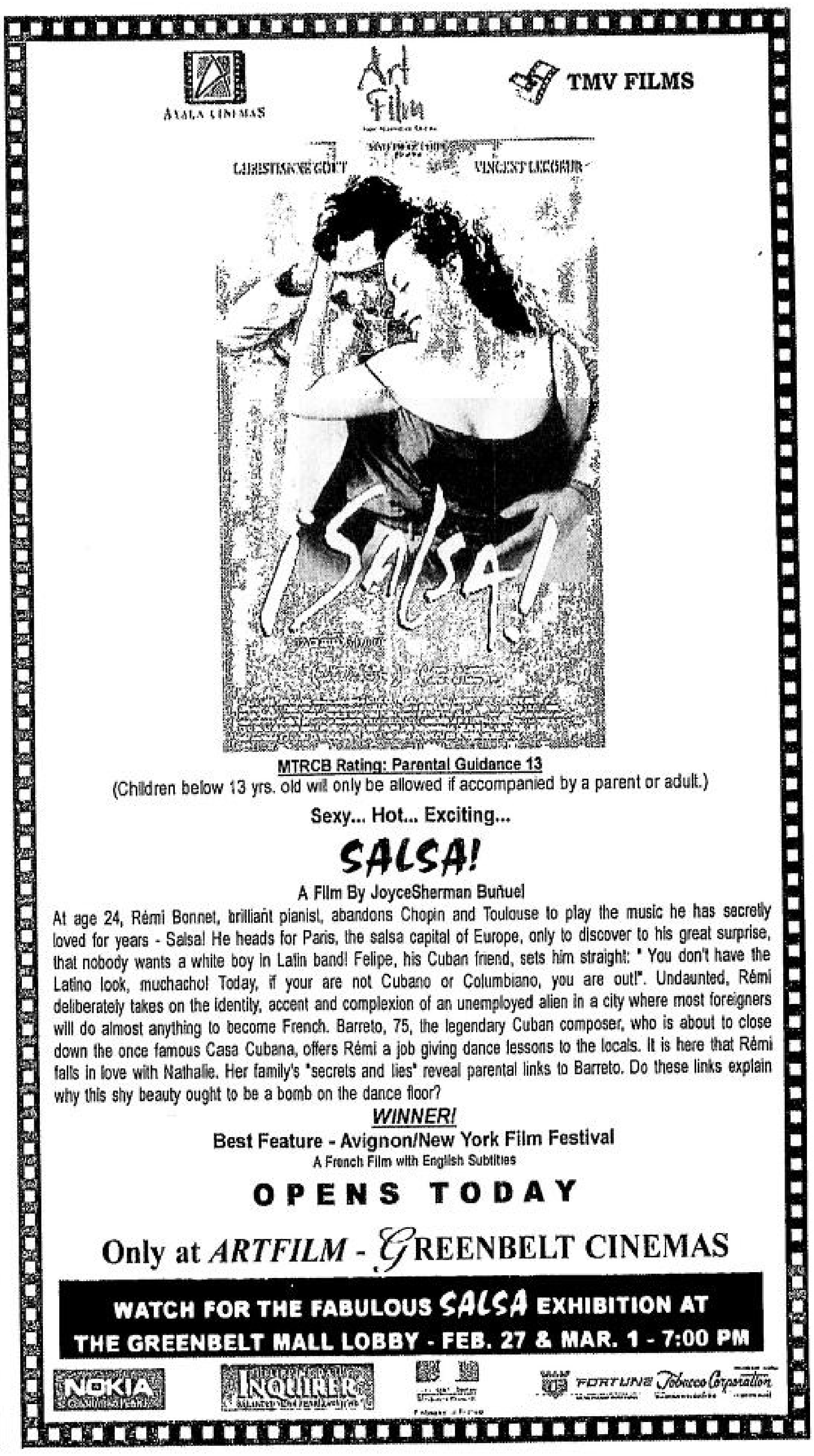
A MICHAEL MANN FILM

ALI

Forget what you think you know.

STUDIO 23
SKYFILMS

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


AYALA CINEMAS
Art Film
TMV FILMS

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
(Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.)

Sexy... Hot... Exciting...

SALSA!

A Film By JoyceSherman Buñuel

At age 24, Rémi Bonnet, brilliant pianist, abandons Chopin and Toulouse to play the music he has secretly loved for years - Salsa! He heads for Paris, the salsa capital of Europe, only to discover to his great surprise, that nobody wants a white boy in Latin band! Felipe, his Cuban friend, sets him straight: " You don't have the Latino look, muchacho! Today, if your are not Cubano or Columbiano, you are out!". Undaunted, Rémi deliberately takes on the identity, accent and complexion of an unemployed alien in a city where most foreigners will do almost anything to become French. Barreto, 75, the legendary Cuban composer, who is about to close down the once famous Casa Cubana, offers Rémi a job giving dance lessons to the locals. It is here that Rémi falls in love with Nathalie. Her family's "secrets and lies" reveal parental links to Barreto. Do these links explain why this shy beauty ought to be a bomb on the dance floor?

WINNER!
Best Feature - Avignon/New York Film Festival
A French Film with English Subtitles

OPENS TODAY

Only at *ARTFILM* - GREENBELT CINEMAS

WATCH FOR THE FABULOUS SALSA EXHIBITION AT THE GREENBELT MALL LOBBY - FEB. 27 & MAR. 1 - 7:00 PM

NOKIA
INQUIRER
FORTUNE Tobacco Corporation

You can be a star in Coca-Cola's year-long music campaign

FAVORITE softdrink brand, Coca-Cola, proves that dreams can come true with its recent "Musicola" campaign, an integrated music program where teens can have the chance-in-a-lifetime experience of jamming with their favorite stars or even recording their own CD.

In a tie-up with ABS-CBN, Coca-Cola launches a year-long music extravaganza on the network's Sunday noontime show, "Asap."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Every Sunday, Coca-Cola will feature different musical experiences that will allow teenagers to display their talent.

"Jam with the Stars" gives one a chance to perform with his singing idol.

"Making the Band" is a nationwide search for individual musicians and singers, with a chance to perform on "Asap."

"Red Couch" is a search for lucky members in the live studio audience who gets to sit in the red sofa where they can watch the show up close and even chat with the celebrity performers.

Meanwhile, for the techno savvy, there's "Musicola" on PinoyCentral at www.coca-colamusicola.com. If you're with a band, you can even send your original MP3 recording and get a chance to win the MP3 Band Search.

PAROKYA ni Edgar sings "Musicola" tune.

Even on radio, there's a chance to enjoy Coca-Cola's latest campaign on dwRR's "Love Theme, Love Team." One can vote for the best love song of a favorite celebrity love team and the song with the most votes will be performed by the loveteam in "Asap."

The campaign is in line with Coca-Cola's latest TV commercial which gathers for the first time bands like Parokya ni Edgar, Wolfgang and Barbie's Cradle, with young singers **Roselle Nava** and **Anna Fegi**. **Rico J. Puno** joins the caboodle to represent the '70s.

With the artists' powerful display of their music in different genres, they represent the voice of the youth and weave a range of emotions which teens typically experience.

The foremost message of Coca-Cola understands the teens and shares their passion for music.

"Coke and music are with the young generation as they go through the different experiences in life," explains Coca-Cola brand director **Alex Panlilio.**

"We want to concentrate on the passion of teens and one of them is music. We also have a PBA team so we cater to the teens' sports interest."

Panlilio informs "Musicola" will also grace fiestas nationwide with a roving center of games and other attractions. It started with the Sinulog Festival in Cebu and the Ati-Atihan in Kalibo last month.

Coca-Cola will put up different booths that will serve as fiesta attractions in towns and barangays in and out of Metro Manila.

MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictlyfor ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admited
OPENS MARCH 6
ngayong tag-init, may kagandahang magpupumilit...
introducing ruby padilla & barbara milano
eskandalosa
written & directed by joven m. tan
Photographed By ROMY VITUG
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

In the Ultimate Haunted House, there's death in every door & a ghost in every room!
SPECIAL EFX + TERROR BEGINS TODAY!
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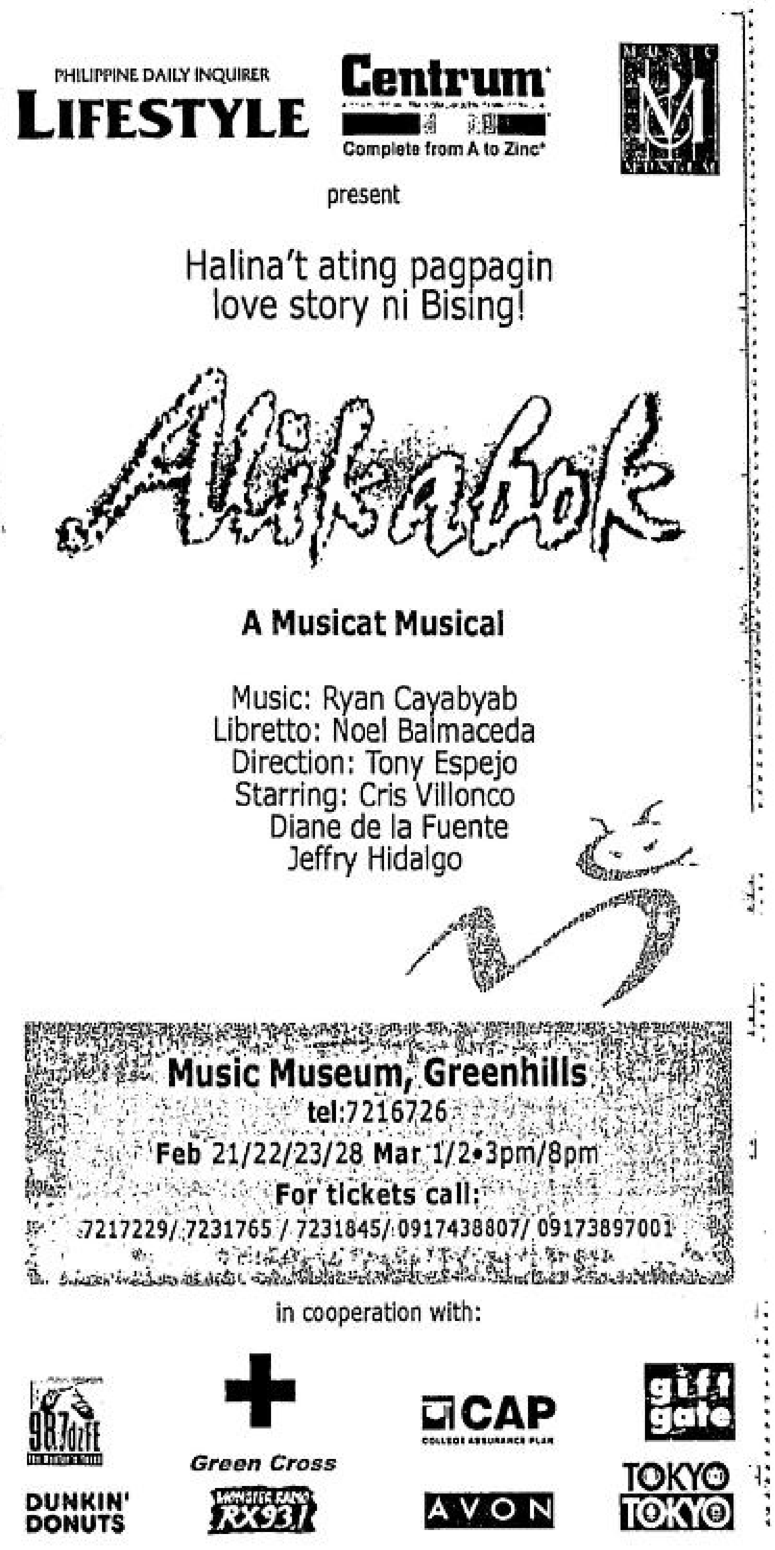
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

The witch
Misery loves company.
Avenging mother
First born son
The lunatic serial killer
Withered lover
Decapitated head
Murderous blacksmith
strangled cheerleader
Naked princess
Grotesque baby
???
Torn prince
THIR13EN GHOSTS
www.13ghosts.com



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love story ni Bising!
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Libretto: Noel Balmaceda
Direction: Tony Espejo
Starring: Cris Villonco
Diane de la Fuente
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GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SHALLOW HAL
12:50/ 3:10/ 5:30/ 7:50/ 10:10
P 13
CINEMA 2 THIRTEEN GHOST
R 18
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
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ALIKABOK (A Musicat Musical)
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POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

RAT RACE - GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	13 GHOST - R 18 11:00, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	GOT 2 BELIEVE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	ALI - P 13 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
8 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
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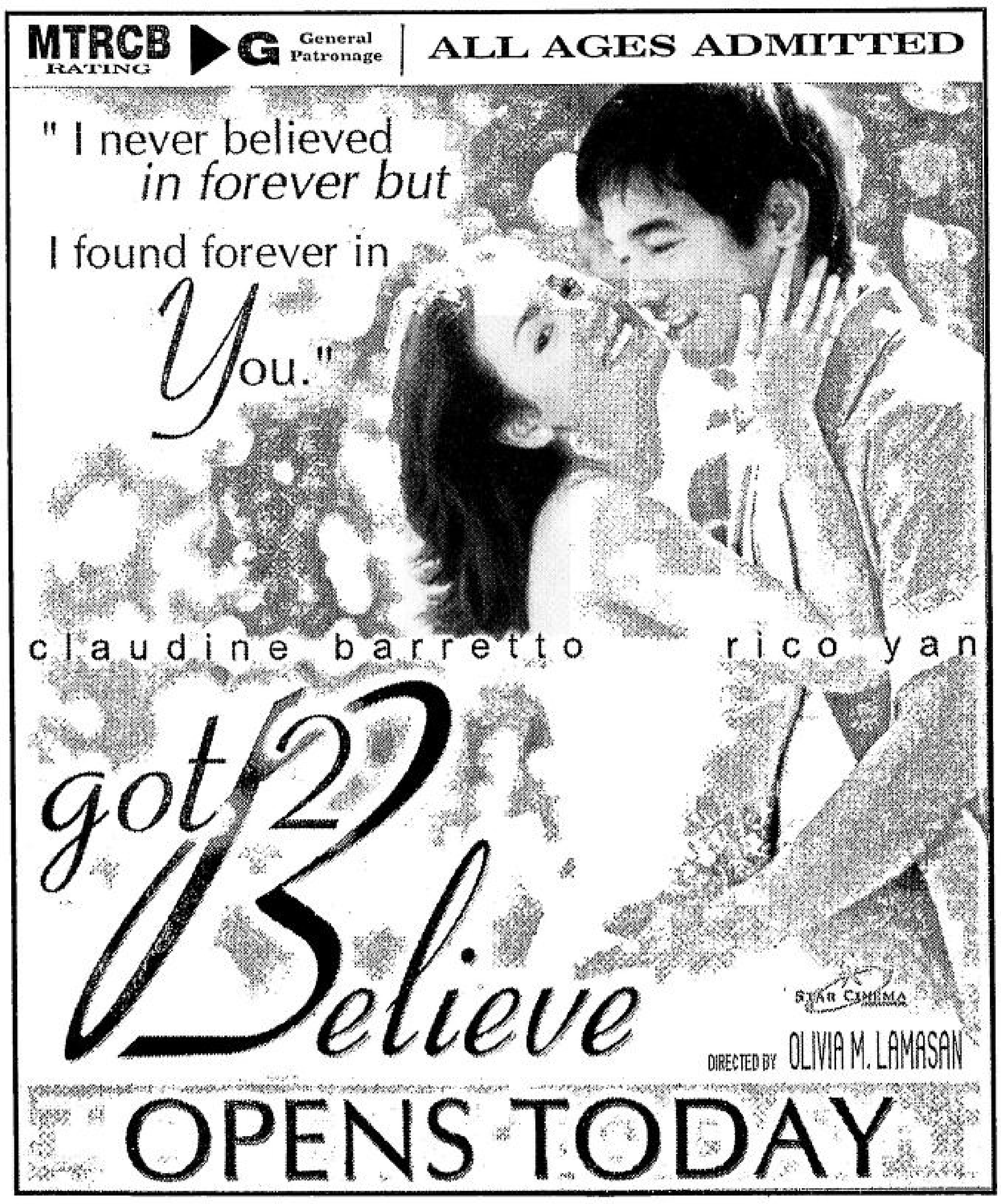
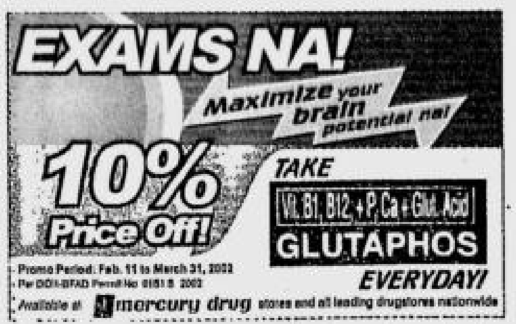
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR
Russell Crowe
BEST DIRECTOR
Ron Howard
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Jennifer Connelly
BEST SCREENPLAY
Akiva Goldsman
4 WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
BEST SCREENPLAY
RUSSELL CROWE
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
ED HARRIS
United International Pictures
OPENS MARCH 6
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES



MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
" I never believed
in forever but
I found forever in
You."
claudine barretto rico yan
got 2 Believe
STAR CINEMA
DIRECTED BY OLIVIA M. LAMASAN
OPENS TODAY

MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS
NOW OPEN @ ROBINSONS PAMPANGA
Olongapo cor. Gapan Rd., North Expressway- San Fernando, PAMPANGA
avail of our Special Opening Treat on February 27, 2002- Wednesday
FREE Porcorn & Iced Tea for every purchase of two (2) movie tickets.
Visit 4 times & get one(1) FREE movie ticket.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- Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0151 S. 2002
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How will you deal with lawbreakers in your city, now that you have been appointed chief of police?

Guest: We will enforce the laws strictly. If the lawbreakers don't cooperate peacefully, we will charge them with assisting arrest!

(Ooops, baliktad yata . . .)

* * *

Host: *Gaano katagal na kayo gumagawa ng mga* bamboo furniture?

Guest: *Mula nung maliit pa po ako, mga* 25 years old.

(Old? You mean, ago.)

* * *

Host: Do you have fights with your wife?

Guest: *Oo,* all marriages *naman, may* fight. *pero hindi kami* violet!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: What about the rumor that you play around, that you have many girlfriends?

Guest: No, I don't do that. It's not within how I brought up my parents!

(Ah, come again?)

* * *

Host: It's so beautiful and peaceful in this resort. If you close your ears, you will hear the wind!

(Duh!)

* * *

Host: What are your plans for this year?

Guest: What plans?

Host: You know, like are you planning to get married?

Guest: Ah, that's personal. When it comes to personal, I have to keep my cards close to myself!

(Do tell!)

* * *

Host: You really have such a nice place here. Thanks for taking us on this grand tour of your town's best tourist attractions!

Mayor: You're welcome, come back anytime! All throughout, I hope I have make you felt welcome to my town!

(Well, it's the thought that counts . . .)

* * *

Host: That was a beautiful dance. Can you talk about the meaning of your movements?

Choreographer: Ok. *Kanina,* when we jump, it's a symbol of a jumping mountain!

(How—symbolic!)

'Survivor' in Marquesas

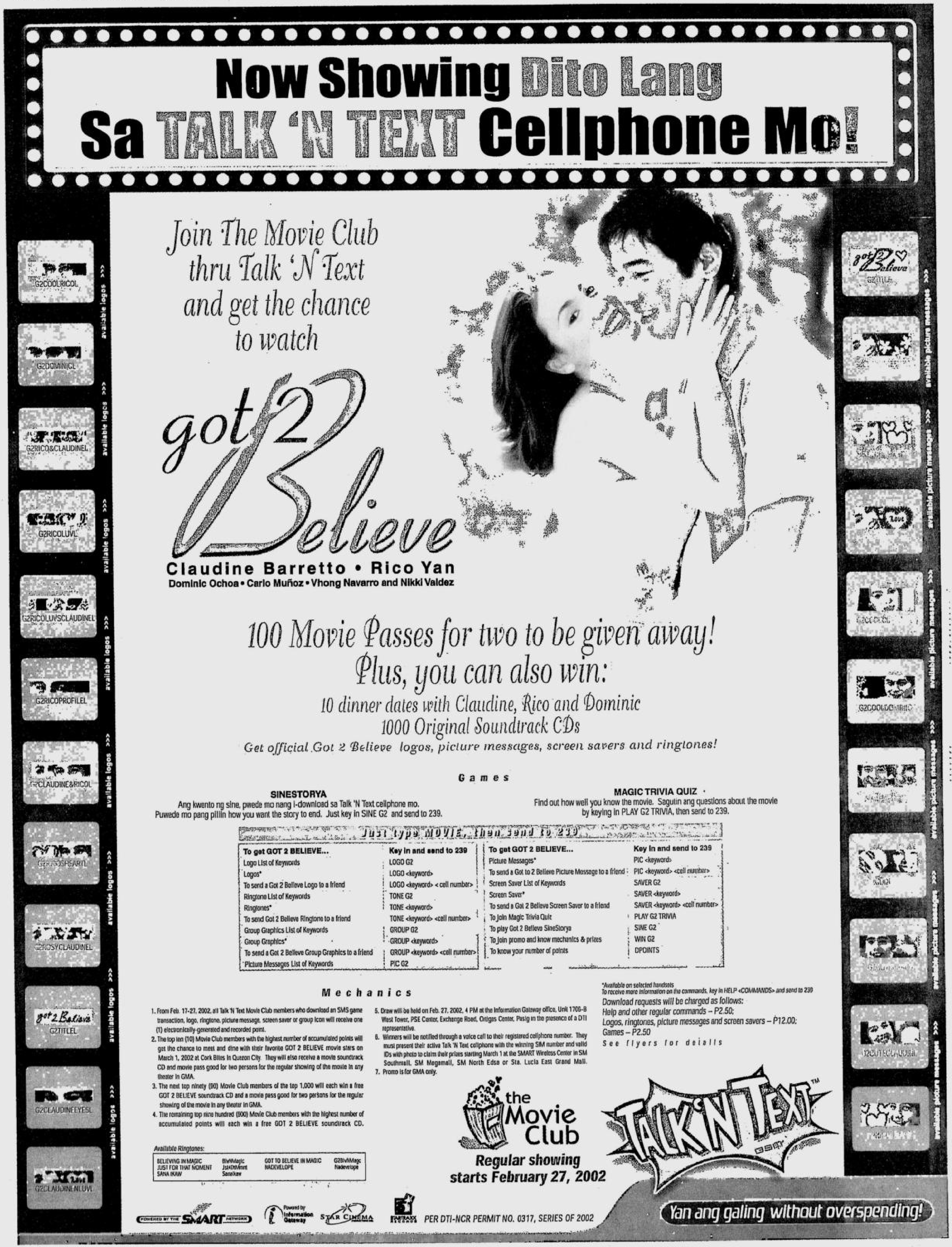
THE FOURTH installment of "Survivor" will be aired live via satellite March 1, 2 p.m. on Studio 23.

This time around, a new batch of 16 adventurous strangers will find themselves in the lush tropical jungle of one of the most isolated islands in the volcanic Marquesas archipelago of French Polynesia.

The new survivors: From the Maraamu Tribe, **Gina Crew**, a nature guide; **Hunter Ellis**, a Federal Express pilot; **Peter Harkey**, owner of a bowling alley and wine shop; **Patricia Jackson**, a truck assembler; **Sarah Jones**, an accounts manager; **Rob Mariano**, a construction worker; **Sean Rector**, a teacher, and **Vecepia Tollery**, an office manager.

From the Rotu Tribe: **Gabriel Cade**, a bartender, **John Carroll**, a registered nurse; **Robert De Canio**, a limousine driver; **Neleh Dennis**, a student; **Paschal English**, a judge; **Tammy Leitner**, a crime reporter; **Kathy O'Brien**, a real estate agent, and **Zoe Zanidakis**, a fishing boat captain.

"Survivor" was created by **Mark Burnett** and is hosted by **Jeff Probst**.



Now Showing Dito Lang Sa TALK 'N TEXT Cellphone Mo!

Join The Movie Club thru Talk 'N Text and get the chance to watch

got 2 Believe

Claudine Barretto • Rico Yan
Dominic Ochoa • Carlo Muñoz • Vhong Navarro and Nikki Valdez

100 Movie Passes for two to be given away!
Plus, you can also win:
10 dinner dates with Claudine, Rico and Dominic
1000 Original Soundtrack CDs
Get official Got 2 Believe logos, picture messages, screen savers and ringtones!

Games

SINESTORYA
Ang kwento ng sine, pwede mo nang i-download sa Talk 'N Text cellphone mo.
Puwede mo pang piliin how you want the story to end. Just key in SINE G2 and send to 239.

MAGIC TRIVIA QUIZ
Find out how well you know the movie. Sagutin ang questions about the movie by keying in PLAY G2 TRIVIA, then send to 239.

Just type MOVIE, then send to 239

To get GOT 2 BELIEVE...	Key in and send to 239	To get GOT 2 BELIEVE...	Key in and send to 239
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO G2	Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword>
Logos*	LOGO <keyword>	To send a Got to 2 Believe Picture Message to a friend	PIC <keyword> <cell number>
To send a Got 2 Believe Logo to a friend	LOGO <keyword> < cell number>	Screen Saver List of Keywords	SAVER G2
Ringtone List of Keywords	TONE G2	Screen Saver*	SAVER <keyword>
Ringtones*	TONE <keyword>	To send a Got 2 Believe Screen Saver to a friend	SAVER <keyword> <cell number>
To send Got 2 Believe Ringtone to a friend	TONE <keyword> <cell number>	To join Magic Trivia Quiz	PLAY G2 TRIVIA
Group Graphics List of Keywords	GROUP G2	To play Got 2 Believe SineStorya	SINE G2
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword>	To join promo and know mechanics & prizes	WIN G2
To send a Got 2 Believe Group Graphics to a friend	GROUP <keyword> <cell number>	To know your number of points	DPOINTS
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC G2		

Mechanics

1. From Feb. 17-27, 2002, all Talk 'N Text Movie Club members who download an SMS game transaction, logo, ringtone, picture message, screen saver or group icon will receive one (1) electronically-generated and recorded point.
2. The top ten (10) Movie Club members with the highest number of accumulated points will get the chance to meet and dine with their favorite GOT 2 BELIEVE movie stars on March 1, 2002 at Cork Bites in Quezon City. They will also receive a movie soundtrack CD and movie pass good for two persons for the regular showing of the movie in any theater in GMA.
3. The next top ninety (90) Movie Club members of the top 1,000 will each win a free GOT 2 BELIEVE soundtrack CD and a movie pass good for two persons for the regular showing of the movie in any theater in GMA.
4. The remaining top nine hundred (900) Movie Club members with the highest number of accumulated points will each win a free GOT 2 BELIEVE soundtrack CD.
5. Draw will be held on Feb. 27, 2002, 4 PM at the Information Gateway office, Unit 1706-B West Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig in the presence of a DTI representative.
6. Winners will be notified through a voice call to their registered cellphone number. They must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with the winning SIM number and valid IDs with photo to claim their prizes starting March 1 at the SMART Wireless Center in SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa or Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.
7. Promo is for GMA only.

*Available on selected handsets
To receive more information on the commands, key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239
Download requests will be charged as follows:
Help and other regular commands – P2.50;
Logos, ringtones, picture messages and screen savers – P12.00;
Games – P2.50
See flyers for details

Available Ringtones:

BELIEVING IN MAGIC JUST FOR THAT MOMENT SANA IKAW	BlvMagic Jst4DtMmnt SanaIkaw	GOT TO BELIEVE IN MAGIC NADEVELOPE	G2BlvMMagc Nadevelope

the Movie Club
Regular showing starts February 27, 2002

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0317, SERIES OF 2002

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FEBRUARY 27, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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91-day treasury bill yield falls to 7%

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields sustained their drop for the eighth consecutive week, pushing the benchmark rate to a fresh 15-year low but the marginal decline convinced fixed-income traders that domestic interest rates have hit their bottom.

The 91-day treasury bill yield fell by 8.2 basis points to 7 percent while the rate of the 182-day instrument shed 16.6 basis points to 7.442 percent.

Deputy National Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said the significant drop in the six-month rate indicated that there was still room for treasury bill yields to go down by five to 10 basis points in next week's auction.

The auction raised P3 billion for the government although offers for the two tenors reached P9.072 billion.

A trader from a foreign bank said he believed the rates would start climbing in the coming weeks and today's auction of P4 billion worth of 20-year bonds would dictate the tempo of domestic interest rates in the days to come.

The trader said the government might not be able to bring down the benchmark rate lower than the historic level of 6.98 percent recorded in January 1987.

"The auction of the 20-year bonds today would set the tone for the other tenors, particularly the longer-dated ones. If the government would decide to accept higher rates, then the yield of other tenors would have to adjust," another trader said.

The government's auction of 20-year bonds would be the first since April 1997. "We want to issue long-term bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates and to lock-in our borrowings at these lower yields," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in an earlier interview.

"We still expect rates to move down by five to 10 basis points in the coming auctions and we hope that rates would start to stabilize," Mendiola said.

However, the deputy treasurer said the market might have discounted the additional liquidity to be unleashed in March when the liquidity reserves kept by banks in the Bangko Sentral's vaults in the form of government securities would mature.

Apart from the P4-billion, 20-year bonds, the government is also set to issue another P5- to P10-billion four-year retail treasury bonds as part of the P36 billion worth of funds it would borrow from the domestic market in the second quarter.

A trader from a foreign bank said that while the appetite for credit has not improved, lenders still chose to put their money in risk-free government securities particularly in debt papers with shorter maturities.

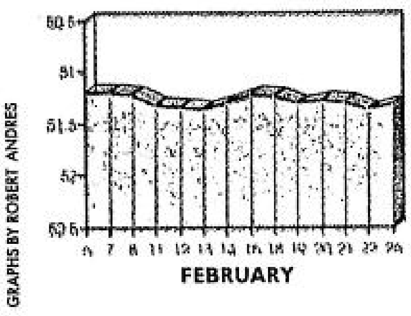
"There is so much liquidity in the system and there are no instruments yet where they could

91-DAY

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.315 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 26, 2002

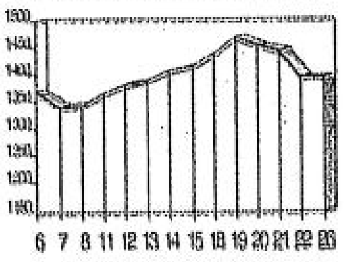
¥134.05 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 26, 2002

GOLD: $292.50/293
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 26, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end flat

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS ended flat yesterday, shedding early gains of nearly 2 percent, as investors turned cautious and took profits in the latter part of the session, traders said.

Gains on Wall Street last Friday and on Monday helped support the market initially but the buying ran out of steam by late morning, the traders said. The Philippine Stock Exchange was closed for a public holiday on Monday.

The main composite index ended 0.41 points, or 0.03 percent, up at 1,396.79 points, after touching an intraday high of 1,424.20 points, a rise of 1.9 percent.

Turnover eased to P834.8 million compared to P1.46 billion last Friday.

"Profit-taking has not finished yet . . . there was a lack of follow-through buying from the morning, some investors decided to cash in gains," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said.

Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines president Efren

SHARES/ B6

UK group firms up $850-M project in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A LEADING management consultancy firm from the United Kingdom is putting up an $850-million aircraft maintenance facility at the Clark International Airport to serve the demand for aircraft repair and upkeep in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mace Ltd. said the facility would cater to both commercial and military aircraft and was being positioned to meet the anticipated shortfall in aircraft maintenance facilities by 2004 and projected rise in air travel in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mace will use a 90-hectare lot in Clark that would serve a full range of support infrastructure and services such as aircraft repair, regular maintenance checks, passenger-to-freighter conversions, hangar parking and a training academy.

Over the next seven to nine years, Mace will spend $770 million for a 36,000-square-meter hangar; $40 million for aprons, external works and utilities connections; $20 million for an aviation training academy, and $20 million for an extension site. The project will be implemented in three phases. The project will generate 38,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The company is currently organizing a local company to facilitate its investments here and it is laying down the groundwork for development of the property.

Mace is focused on management consultancy work in the property and construction sectors. Its airport-related projects include the Kuala Lumpur Airport, Heathrow Airport-Terminal 4 and British Airways Cranebank Flight Crew Training Facility.

The Mace investment formed the bulk of the $1.2-billion haul of President Macapagal-Arroyo from her nine-day visit to Britain, Canada and the United States early this month.

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Robinsons earmarks ₱4B for retail expansion

By Doris C. Dumlao

ROBINSONS Land Corp., the property arm of the Gokongweis' JG Summit Holdings Inc., is spending up to P4 billion to build seven new shopping malls and supermarkets within the next 18 months.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, JG Summit chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. disclosed that the conglomerate was all set to build four new malls and supermarkets this year and three next year to beef up the group's retail business.

RLC, currently the country's second biggest retailer next to tycoon Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc., operates 10 malls and three supermarkets. Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas is its flagship project.

"We're spending about P3 billion to P4 billion for all seven (new commercial centers)," he said.

The Gokongweis' retail expansion is almost at par with the expansion binge of SMPH, which, in turn, is building two malls worth P2.5 billion each year, on top of at least P1 billion in annual budget for additional landbanking.

RLC's commercial centers division generates more than half of the company's total revenues while hotels, high-rise buildings, housing and land development divisions account for the rest.

Gokongwei said the new Robinsons malls and supermarkets would be established in Bulacan, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Laguna, Cavite and Cubao. He said RLC already had the lots for the new commercial centers.

Also, Gokongwei disclosed that the supermarket property along Robinsons Apartelle would be redeveloped into a combination of commercial and high-rise residential complex.

"We're putting up a big shopping mall and buildings there this year. There will be four 12-story buildings which we will sell to the middle class," Gokongwei said.

In addition, other company sources said RLC was scouting for new landbanking opportunities even if it now had enough land for its mall expansion. The sources said RLC was looking for lots with the size of at least two hectares which for new malls to be put up.

Among RLC's other shopping malls are: Robinsons Place-Manila, Robinsons Place-Bacolod, Robinsons Place-Cebu, Robinsons Townmall-Los Baños, Robinsons-Place and Big R Supercenter-Novaliches, Robinsons Place-Pasig, Robinsons Place-Iloilo. The group also started last year its Big-R or supermarket chain.

The robust retail sector in the Philippines has been supported by strong consumer spending despite the global economic slowdown. Last year, for instance, personal consumption still grew by 3.4 percent as against the 3.5-percent growth in 2000, which was attributed by the government to the expansion in rural incomes arising from the growth in agriculture and income remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	265,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	-	700,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	120,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	190,000	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/300,000*/325,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	275,000/325,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,550,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	630,000	670,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./C2*/C3**	150,000/185,000*/265,000**	155,000/230,000*/285,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	600,000*	400,000/625,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000	250,000/350,000*/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL A	115,000	125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	150,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,600,000
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	290,000	200,000/350,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	365,000/650,000*	-
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FBDC to expand Boni complex

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) has announced an expansion of the Fort Square entertainment complex to include a two-story structure, multi-establishment dining facility.

FBDC has signed a long-term lease agreement with Sabre Development Corp. for a design-and-build arrangement. The latter shall also be the master lessee of the 848 square meters of leasable space in the project.

Operations of the dining and entertainment expansion is expected to start in the fourth quarter.

Formerly known as "The Fort," the Bonifacio Global City's Fort Square is already home to several dining and entertainment options, including Billy King's Le Souffle and the mid-priced Dencio's. With the expansion of the Fort Square, FBDC moves a step closer to creating a true "entertainment plaza" in contrast to the congested environments of Makati, Quezon City and central Manila.

The concept for the expansion of the Fort Square includes landscaped open spaces designed to promote al fresco dining, open-air concerts and parties within the area.

FBDC said the new cluster of restaurants is expected to complement the current offering of middle to high-end restaurants already located at Fort Square: Le Souffle, Butcher and the Grill, Next Door Cafe, Sea Palace, Hot Rod Bar and Cafe, Caramba, Gourdo's Delicatessen, Pier One, Dencio's Zushi-san, Claudette's Bakeshop and the soon to open Tamasha.

"Expansion of Bonifacio Global City's Fort Square reinforce our role as Metro Manila's leading dining and entertainment location by introducing more varied, visually exciting establishments," said Reymundo S. Cochangco, FBDC vice president for commercial operations.

The availability of paved and guarded parking areas surrounding the area will also provide added benefits for restaurant operators and their customers as well, he said.

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The Export Credit Insurance (ECI) Program gives protection to exporters against risk of non-payment by foreign buyers of export shipments on credit. By this assurance of payment, TIDCORP aims to embolden exporters to sell more on credit to foreign buyers, and consequently develop new buyers and markets. Selling their products on credit terms places Philippine exporters at par with their competitors abroad. ECI protects the exporter from commercial risks of buyer bankruptcy or insolvency and protracted delays in payment. Exporters are also protected from political risks such as currency inconvertibility and transfer risks, importation bans, import license cancellations, war and other civil disturbances.

TIDCORP presently offers two short-term ECI policies. One is the **Comprehensive Policy** which covers losses arising from both commercial and political risks. The other is the **Commercial Risk Only Policy**. Each policy has a one-year validity period and covers credits of up to 180 days. In the event of non-payment, the policy covers up to 85% of the unpaid export receivables. Any company doing business in the Philippines may apply for an ECI provided that it is manufacturing, exporting or trading goods with at least 20% local content based on FOB value.

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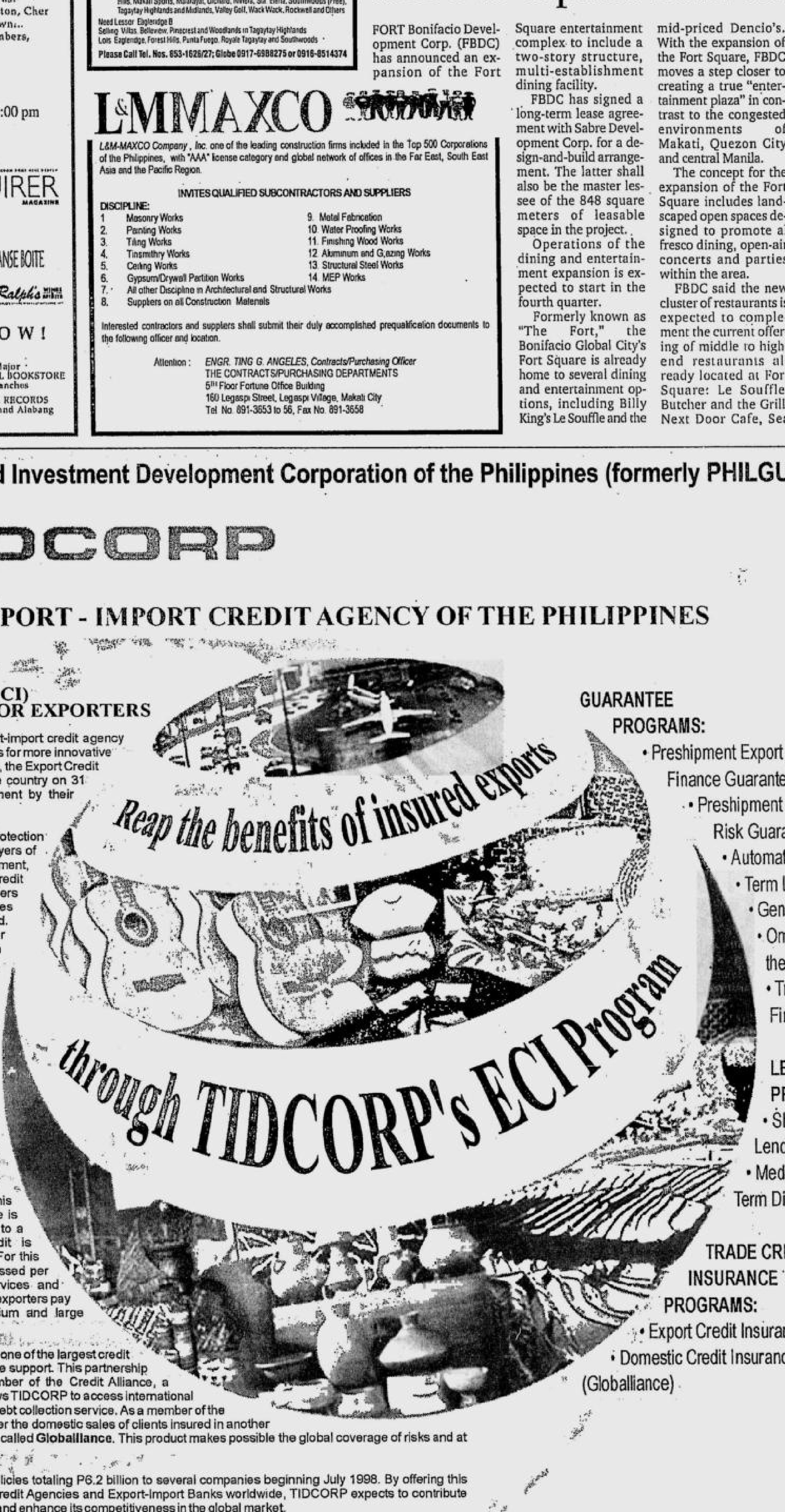
TIDCORP has teamed up with COFACE of France, one of the largest credit insurers in the world, for ECI underwriting and insurance support. This partnership with COFACE enabled TIDCORP to become a member of the Credit Alliance, a worldwide network of credit insurers. This network allows TIDCORP to access international sources of credit information and to avail of worldwide debt collection service. As a member of the Alliance, TIDCORP can also issue a local policy to cover the domestic sales of clients insured in another country by a Credit Alliance partner through a scheme called **Globalliance**. This product makes possible the global coverage of risks and at the same time providing local service.

To date, TIDCORP has issued credit insurance policies totaling P6.2 billion to several companies beginning July 1998. By offering this service, which is also being offered by other Export Credit Agencies and Export-Import Banks worldwide, TIDCORP expects to contribute significantly in the bid of Philippine exporters to sustain and enhance its competitiveness in the global market.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The Leung and short of it

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ERNEST Leung is in danger of losing the presidency of the Philippine Stock Exchange after some brokers who are not a fan of his discovered that Leung was, up until June 2001, the chair of DBP-Daiwa Securities.

That he was an officer of a brokerage firm contravened Section 33-2(g) of the new Securities Regulations Code, which stipulates that, to prevent any possible conflict-of-interest, a PSE officer must not be connected with any PSE-regulated or member-brokerage firm within two years prior to the appointment.

A former finance undersecretary, Leung was appointed PSE president only last Jan. 2.

Only last week, a minor setback struck Leung when he lost his PSE-supplied driver. According to brokers' talk, the driver protested to the alleged back-seat driving orders being barked by the irascible Leung.

The driver reportedly left Leung and his car in the middle of Edsa.

COA's Enron

IF YOU are looking for a local Enron, the government-controlled Philippine National Construction Corp. should end high up on the suspect list.

Despite being audited by the government's Commission on Audit, PNCC has been fined or suspended several times by the Philippine Stock Exchange for late submission of financial reports.

Worse, the various Malacañang-installed boards have not called any stockholders' meeting since 1983, notwithstanding SEC and court orders.

The Asset Privatization Trust has been trying to sell it, the last attempt being in October 2000, but the few bidders it attracted distrusted the government's valuation of P7 billion, submitting instead bids from as high as P1.288 billion to as low as P420 million.

To keep the company afloat, the Bureau of Treasury and the state-owned National Development Co. pumped in P2.3 billion in 1999 and P2.6 billion in 2000 but booked them, with COA blessings, as "advances" instead of "liabilities."

As of November 2001, the company already reported a loss of P558 million for the year, with operating loss reaching P40 million. This means that the company revenues, mainly tollway collections from the north and south Luzon expressways, cannot even cover its operations.

Mav-erick dress code

MARIVIC "Mav" Rufino-Buenaventura, the socialite-painter and other half of the central bank governor, has won her lonely battle against the "antiquated" dress code at the Manila Golf Club.

As a result of the so-called Mav incident, the country's premier golf club has now allowed women with collarless or sleeveless tops as long as they remain in the clubhouse and not venture out into the course.

If you may recall, Mav was refused service by a waiter for wearing a spaghetti-strapped shirt. Mav, who just dropped by to pick up her hubby, had tried ordering a drink at the club verandah when she was allegedly "rudely" rebuffed.

Since that incident in November, Mav has not set foot on the club again.

With the dress code now relaxed, fellow MGC ladies are asking when Mav will show her bubbly self again. Clubhouse manager Janine de Padua promises a round of victory drinks.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PLAN to set up a casino in The Fort was hatched all the way back in the time of Rep. Alan Cayetano and his ally, then Taguig Mayor Ricardo Papa Jr.

Papa leased a 5.1-hectare lot in The Fort, originally slated for the new Taguig town hall, to a little-known Hong Kong group, Alliance Investments Corp., which had proposed to build a luxury hotel and a "recreation center" on the property.

Guess what the "recreation center" turned out to be?

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

We are pleased to announce that raffle numbers of qualified HOPE depositors corresponding to their average daily cleared balances (ADCB's) for the month of January 2002 are now available for verification at their respective branches.

The second quarterly draw covering raffle numbers issued from January to March 2002 is scheduled for April 26, 2002.
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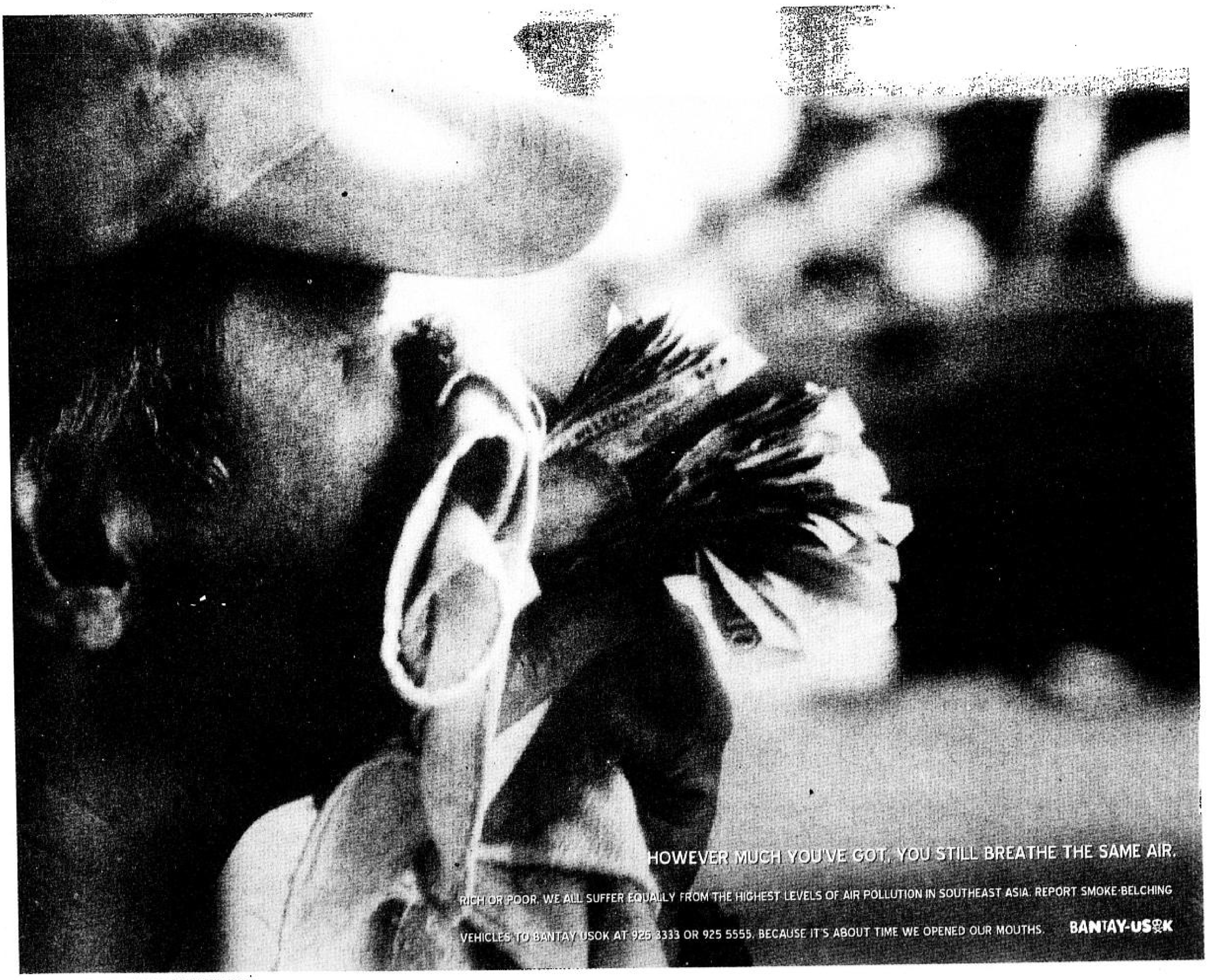
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PLDT profit surges to ₱3.4B

By Abigail L. Ho

PANGILINAN

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. more than tripled its net income last year to P3.4 billion from the previous year's P1.1 billion, mainly driven by the strong showing of cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

Smart was able to sustain its market leadership, with a subscriber base of 4.9 million analog and global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers, cornering 44 percent of the country's cellular service market.

This was double its subscriber numbers, placed at more than 2.3 million, at the start of 2000.

The cellular giant also contributed a record net income of P3.9 billion last year, a huge improvement from the P406-million net loss in 2000.

Talk N' Text, the GSM brand of Smart's sister firm, Pilipino Telephone Corp., likewise put in a good performance, with subscriber numbers reaching almost 1.5 million. This was a growth of more than 124-percent from the 650,000 subscribers in 2000.

In a news briefing yesterday, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said the last quarter of 2001 was the PLDT group's "sixth consecutive quarter of income growth (and) 2001 typifies the solid progress that the group has achieved."

PLDT's fixed line business also posted "moderate but stable growth in revenues (and earnings before taxes)."

The PLDT group currently has 2.2 million fixed line subscribers, representing a market share of almost 70 percent. This remains a key strength of the dominant carrier as well as provides strong and stable cash flow for the group.

Local exchange revenues grew by 15 percent, reaching P21.9 billion in 2001. PLDT's Teletipid prepaid landline service helped reduce churn (which is measured by the rate of subscriber disconnections), maximize the use of excess capacity and develop a growing client base from a larger segment of the market.

International long distance revenue dropped by 13 percent to P11.5 billion, despite a significant increase in traffic. This was due to falling rates.

PLDT's national long distance revenue likewise declined by 20 percent to P8.4 billion, attributed to a drop in both call volumes and NDD rates.

Volumes fell because of the popularity of and lower cost of communicating via text messaging and e-mail.

"Toll traffic is undifferentiated. (NLD and ILD) are risky revenue streams as you can't brand calls," Pangilinan said.

Revenue from data and other network services, however, grew by 61 percent to P4.8 billion. This was driven by the increasing demand for higher bandwidth and packet-based services.

Data and other network services now account for almost 7 percent of PLDT's consolidated revenues.

The industry leader generated stronger cash flow in 2001, with consolidated revenues placed at over P73.5 billion, 17 percent higher than in 2000.

Telecom firm weighs other options to ease debt load

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. may end up not selling a minority stake in cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. if enough funds could be put together from other financing options.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in a news briefing yesterday that the group was currently looking at other financing options, including new credit lines and the public debt market, to raise $1.3 billion to pay off maturing obligations.

"(We'll be raising half of this amount) from internally generated cash flows and half from external sources, including the sale of Smart. Market conditions have changed. Right after Sept. 11,the financial markets were dead. That contributed partly to the negative sentiment about PLDT. Now the market has changed quite dramatically," he said.

He added that "the likelihood that PLDT should sell Smart or go for a public debt is better than it was post-Sept. 11," but as to what measure the group would favor depended on the cost of capital as well as asset value.

"Will we raise more bonds and sell less of Smart? That's the question. That depends on the cost of capital and perception as to which would be the more valuable asset. Should we sell more of Smart and raise less of debt? Should we raise more of debt and less of Smart or none of Smart at all?" he said.

PLDT treasurer and first vice president Annabelle Chua said PLDT was still trying to "assess alternatives" as to which fund-raising measures would be best to undertake.

"There are multiple options we're continuing to work on. We're trying tó assess alternatives—effective cost of capital as well as the merits of a deal. These are still evolving," she said.

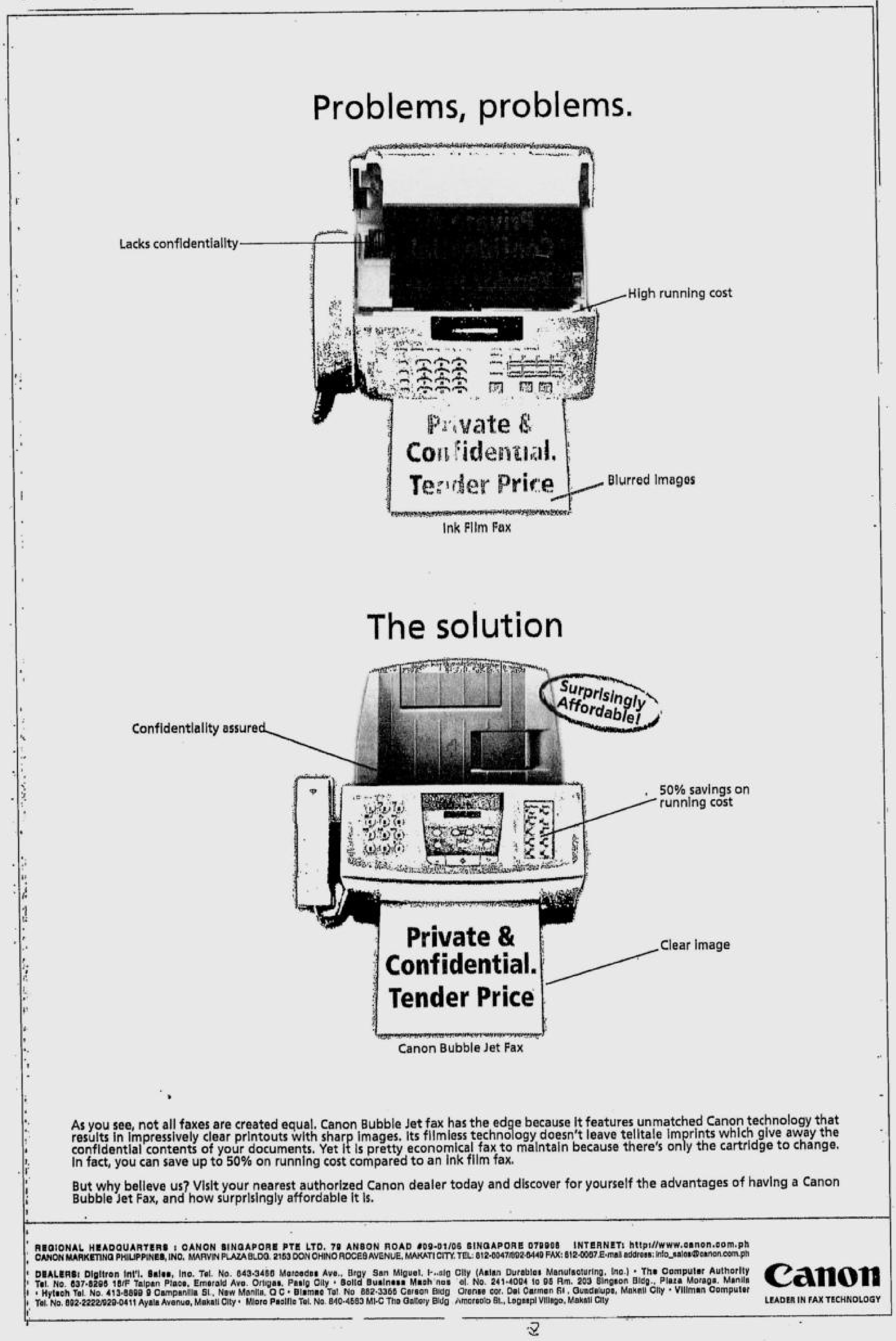
She added that PLDT was continually monitoring market developments as well as exploring various financial activities to help pay for its bunching up maturities in the next three years.

Pangilinan, however, admitted that discussions on the potential sale of a minority stake in Smart were still ongoing.

"I think it's fair to state that discussions are ongoing with respect to that potential sale of a minority stake in Smart. These could take a number of forms. The final shape may be different from what we we're saying, so we can't actually say which form until it is finalized with the party or parties concerned. In terms of selling a stake, (we would like to sell) as little as possible. In terms of cash, (we would like to get) as much as we can," he explained.

He admitted that Smart was the "star performer of the group" and that letting go of even a minority was being properly scrutinized, both internally and externally.

"We're being guided by the values that Smart is creating for itself and for the business," he said.



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, February 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67.5	67	67.5	437,900
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	1,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31.5	32	30	30	876,500
First E-Bank Corp.	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.6	503,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	220	210	210	63,030
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	71,950
Philippine National Bank	70	70	68	68	7,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27	28.5	27	28.5	800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20	20	139,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1300	1295	1295	5,530
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1010	1010	1010	840
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	31	31	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.69	4,680,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	825	805	815	51,760
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.0875	0.0875	71,600,000
Piltel	0.59	0.6	0.52	0.52	20,820,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	497.5	505	492.5	497.5	196,840
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	420,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.022	37,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	32.5	31	32	1,066,300
Manila Electric Co. B	47	47.5	44	44	1,821,100
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.84	1.84	7,344,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	4,483,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	430,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	9,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	559,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	94,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	20,900
RFM Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.34	1.38	1,449,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	49	48	48	220,900
San Miguel Corp. B	63	64	62	62	698,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	3,011,000
Aboitiz Equity Ven.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.88	769,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	120,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
APC Group Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	1,240,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	41,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	[illegible]	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
ATN Holdings Inc	[illegible]	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	[illegible]	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.83	0.84	36,240,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	[illegible]	0.5	0.5	260,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15		0.15	0.15	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	[illegible]	0.32	0.32	3,380,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.135	[illegible]	0.13	0.13	9,260,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	[illegible]	1.04	670,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5		2.5	3,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66		0.66	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	33	32	[illegible]	768,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	[illegible]		710,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36		320,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9		530,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	[illegible]	[illegible]
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.81	[illegible]	
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.32	0.33	[illegible]
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.34	0.34	[illegible]
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	[illegible]
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	410,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,290,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	50,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	420,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	227,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.55	0.5	0.51	25,890,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,880,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	140,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	25,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31	32	30.5	31	1,450,200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.74	1.74	1.68	1.7	638,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	810	810	800	800	1,320
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	40,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	14,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	460	460	460	460	780
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	14,803,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.21	1,070,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	3,040,000
Cyber Bay Corp	0.51	0.52	0.49	0.49	8,830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.30	2.44	2.28	2.28	14,082,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.43	2,420,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.1	1.18	98,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.7	6.7	6,099,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.042	0.043	20,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	4,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0825	0.085	0.07	0.07	27,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,140,050	116,237,310.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	373,037,300	528,001,025.00
PRO	52,202,000	185,100,220.00
Mining	71,650,000	1,688,900.00
OIL	63,610,000	2,410,950.00
GRAND TOTALS:	562,649,250	834,435,005.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	561.36	DOWN 0.45
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,007.66	UP 4.46
PRO	619.49	DOWN 5.30
Mining	1,374.03	DOWN 28.57
OIL	2.00	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	737.73	DOWN 9.20
Composite	1,390.79	UP 0.41

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112; NO. OF TRADES: 4,063

CURRENCIES

Feb. 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.150219	1.000000	51.3600
Japan	Yen	0.008594	0.007472	0.3838
United Kingdom	Pound	1.639522	1.425400	73.2085
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147654	0.128370	6.5931
Switzerland	Franc	0.677516	0.589032	30.2527
Canada	Dollar	0.718662	0.624805	32.0900
Singapore	Dollar	0.628500	0.546418	28.0640
Australia	Dollar	0.590159	0.513084	26.3520
Bahrain	Dinar	3.051140	2.652661	136.2407
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306725	0.266667	13.6960
Brunei	Dollar	0.626822	0.544959	27.9891
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026261	0.022831	1.1726
UAE	Dirham	0.313240	0.272331	13.9869
Korea	Won	0.000875	0.000761	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.869400	44.6524
Brazil	Real	0.481263	0.418410	21.4895
Denmark	Kroner	0.134512	0.116945	6.0063
India	Rupee	0.023619	0.020534	1.0546
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.302689	0.263158	13.5158
Mexico	New Peso	0.126914	0.110339	5.6670
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480259	0.417537	21.4447
Norway	Kroner	0.129270	0.112387	5.7722
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019202	0.016694	0.8574
South Africa	Rand	0.100380	0.08727	4.4822
Sweden	Kroner	0.110020	0.095651	4.9126
Syria	Pound	0.022553	0.019608	1.0071
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032873	0.02858	1.4679
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.012780	0.011111	0.5707

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PSE word war seen over disqualifications

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIREWORKS are expected in today's meeting of the 15-member Philippine Stock Exchange board, which is set to tackle disqualification procedures pertaining to the forthcoming PSE elections on March 9.

Persons familiar with the issue said during yesterday's meeting of the PSE nomination committee, questions were raised on whether former Finance Secretary Ernest Leung qualified for a full-year term as president of the local bourse considering his past relations with a stockbrokerage.

Leung, who is running as a non-broker director, used to be chair of state-controlled Development Bank of the Philippines.

He was also head of DBP's stockbrokerage subsidiary, DBP Daiwa, until late last year.

Discussions within the committee led to a consensus that Leung could be a non-broker director but might not qualify for a full term as PSE president, sources said.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, non-brokers must control majority or at least eight seats in the 15-member board.

The law also states that there must be three independent directors and another five representing the interests of investors.

Also hanging in the balance is the fate of former PSE president Ramon Garcia.

Garcia is also running for a non-broker position but is facing disqualification because he has a son who is associated with a stockbrokerage.

For the second time, Garcia's fate is in the hands of the PSE board, which unceremoniously dismissed him as president last year over a heated word war between him and Metro Pacific Corp. chair and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan.

Garcia and Pangilinan fought over the relocation of the PSE's headquarters to a property inside the Fort Bonifacio Global City donated by Metro Pacific.

Persons familiar with the matter said the PSE nomination committee prepared a list of candidates that it recommended for disqualification but the final decision would be left to the PSE board.

Another candidate facing disqualification is former Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme, who also has a son working for a stockbrokerage.

When Garcia accepted the post of PSE president in May 2000, he sold his shares in RTG & Co. to a new nominee, Milwida Salvachera.

His son, Jose, however, was retained as president.

On the other hand, Jayme's son, Vicente Jr., is a nominee of Highlands Securities, but Jayme himself does not own any share in the company.

Despite mild stock recovery, Shell says it's still not ready for an IPO

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. said yesterday that it was still not ready to offer shares to the public despite an apparent recovery in local stocks.

Pilipinas Shell country chair Eliseo Santiago said in an interview on Saturday that an initial public offering was still largely a question of proper timing.

"We have to consider a lot of things, and the market's performance is just one of that," Santiago told reporters.

He said a wrongly timed public listing would have negative results rather than a hoped-for improvement for the Philippine stock market.

"We will keep on submitting to the energy department a quarterly report (on whether an IPO is already doable)," Santiago said.

Santiago, who was named head of The Royal Dutch/Shell Group's Philippine unit last month, is a veteran in the oil industry.

Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines Inc. were required under the oil industry deregulation law to offer shares to the public on or before Feb. 28 this year, but these firms insisted that a slump in the local bourse would tug at their bottom lines.

Shares of the country's biggest oil firm, Petron, are already being traded.

Section 22 of the Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 requires local oil refiners to let the public own at least 10 percent of their equities.

Pilipinas Shell and Caltex—the industry's No. 2 and No. 3—asked the Department of Justice's opinion on whether they could delay their offerings until market conditions improve. The justice department decided in their favor.

Last month, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said Pilipinas Shell could be expected to offer shares to the public by year's end.

Perez said the oil giant had seen signs of recovery in 2001, among which was an estimated P2.5-billion net income.

"I feel that if the recovery of Shell were to continue this year, an IPO no later than the last quarter of this year is feasible," he said.

Pilipinas Shell has indicated moves to give last year's financial turnaround a follow through.

Outgoing country chair Oscar Reyes said in December the company's performance last year indicated strength while maintaining that an IPO was mainly an issue of correct timing.

Maynilad still unable to buy time to settle $100M in debts

By Christine A. Gaylican

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has yet to convince its creditors to give it more time to pay some $100 million worth of debts due by the end of the month.

"Nothing final has come up from our negotiations, but we are confident we could get another extension," Maynilad project finance director Francis Gilles Puno told the INQUIRER.

Maynilad, part of the Lopez group of companies, is racing against time to settle $350 million in debts it owed Citibank N.A., BNP Paribas, Barclays Capital, Tokai Bank of Japan, Coface of France and other banks.

These banks extended loans in 1999 to enable Maynilad to pay off its other debts and keep up its operations.

Since it got the money, Maynilad had sought three times for more time to pay its debts.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has allowed Maynilad to raise its rates to cover for P2.7 billion worth of losses that Maynilad claims it has incurred because of the peso's weakness against the dollar.

The company is affected by the peso-dollar exchange rate because it has dollar-denominated debts that it assumed when it won a contract to provide water services to half of Metro Manila.

Despite the rates hike, Maynilad's creditors still refused to move their deadline, as they insisted on waiting to see how Maynilad would come to terms with the MWSS on the issue of rate rebasing, as well as its performance targets.

These targets, which constitute billed water volumes to be delivered to customers, are crucial to establishing the company's strong cash flow and ability to service its debts.

Puno said Maynilad was hoping to close a deal with the MWSS and its creditors in June.

The MWSS has refused to endorse Maynilad's bid to secure a sovereign guarantee for $350 million worth of loans.

MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade stressed that it was not written in the concession agreement between the MWSS and Maynilad that the government should guarantee loans acquired either by Maynilad or the MWSS' other concessionaire, Manila Water Co. Inc.

Maynilad has been asking from the MWSS a "lender's clarificatory agreement" that, according to MWSS finance officials, is similar to a sovereign guarantee.

"What we could do for Maynilad is to help them secure the requirements for their creditors proving their financial viability as related to the water services they render in the west zone," Hondrade told the INQUIRER.

The MWSS can validate Maynilad's water tariffs against its operating revenues that will correspond to a stead cash flow that Maynilad can use to pay its debts.

Hondrade said Maynilad could still seek an endorsement for a sovereign guarantee from the Department of Finance.

NFA set to build buffer stocks

THE NATIONAL Food Authority said yesterday that it had set a budget of up to P5.3 billion to buy 560,000 tons of locally produced unmilled rice to build buffer stocks this year.

Last year, the NFA bought 480,000 tons of locally produced unmilled rice.

"This year, we are supposed to buy 560,000 tons of palay (unmilled rice). We have a budget of between P5 billion and P5.3 billion," NFA Deputy Administrator Gregorio Tan told Reuters.

The NFA announced it would buy more unmilled rice from local farmers this year after President Macapagal-Arroyo said rice imports would finally be thrown open and a state monopoly on buying the staple dismantled.

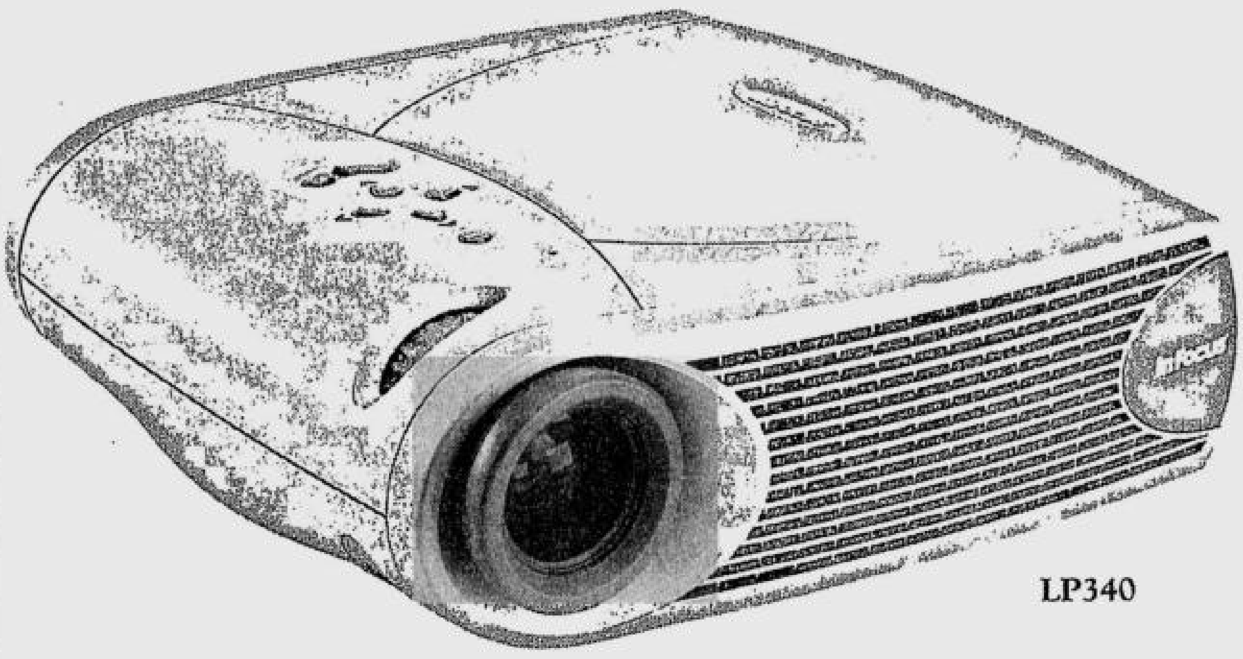
Ms Macapagal has said this year's rice import requirement of 390,000 tons would be brought in by local farmers and private firms and that NFA would now focus on buying locally produced unmilled rice to build up buffer stocks.

The President vowed last year to dismantle the monopoly of NFA, the only firm allowed to directly import rice since 1983, to put a stop to smuggling.

The Philippines, one of Asia's largest buyers of rice, imported 780,000 tons last year.

Officials have said they expected the Philippines to be in the import market for rice between March and April. The country builds buffer rice stocks in the third quarter, the lean season in local rice harvests, in case of a shortfall. *Reuters*

Adiós Sayonara Good-bye



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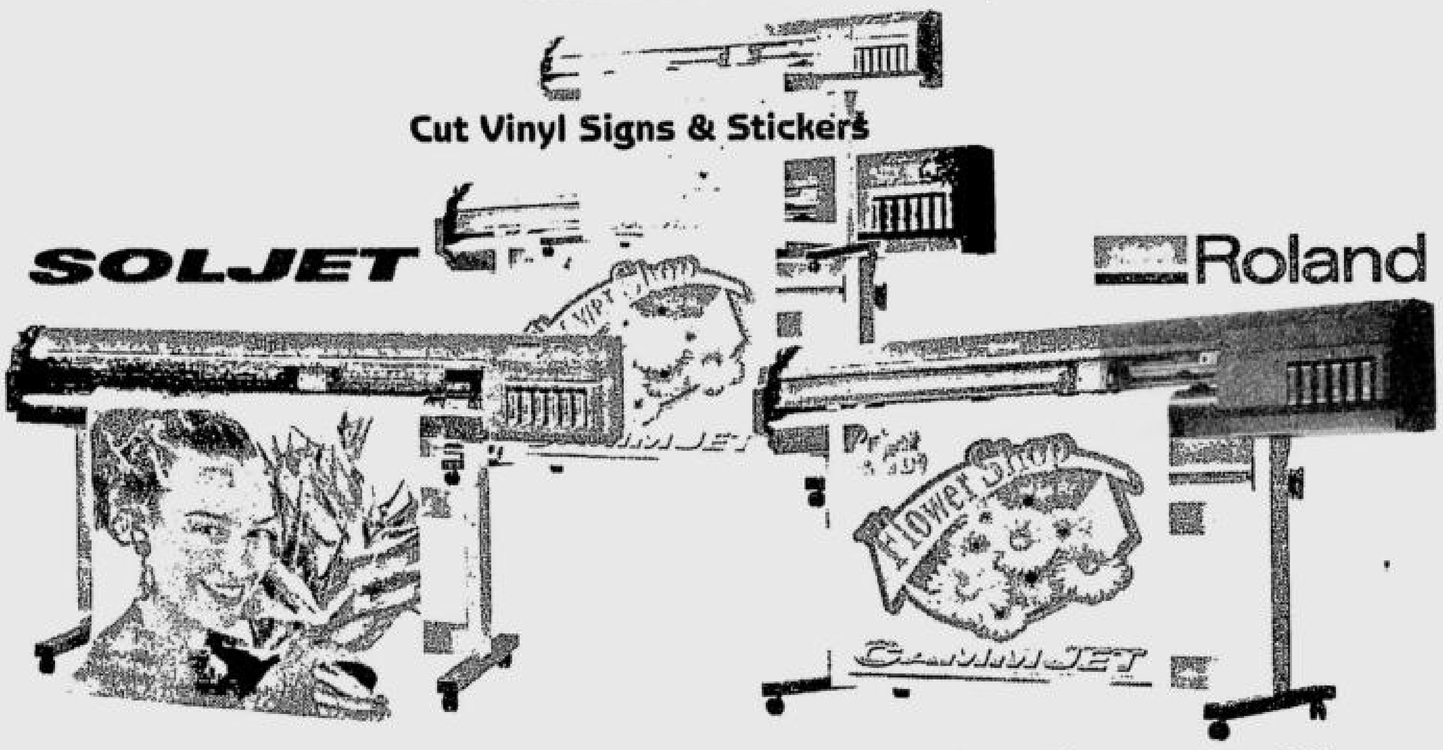

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January-February budget deficit hits ₱18.98B

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday said the national government incurred a cumulative cash budget deficit of P18.98 billion in the first two months of the year.

The government has set its official budget deficit target for 2002 at P130 billion. In 2001, it posted a deficit of P147 billion, exceeding the target of P145 billion.

In January and February, revenues stood at P80.14 billion while expenditures amounted to P99.13 billion, according to the Treasury website.

Compared with the target for the period, there was a revenue under-performance of P6.17 billion, the government said.

The lower revenue performance was brought about by the continued shortfall in collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Analysts have said the government's budget deficit problem has usually been traced to revenue collection, rather than expenditure.

The BIR collected P59.65 billion, P6.59 billion lower than its P66.24-billion target for that period, while BOC collections of P12.49 billion were P1.04 billion short of target.

The shortfalls were partially offset by the over-performance of the Bureau of Treasury, which collected P2.70 billion, exceeding its target by P493 million, the Treasury said.

Congress, meanwhile, has approved a national budget of P754.306 billion for this year. The government is hoping to collect some P624.306 billion in tax revenues and fees to support this budget. It expects the BIR to account for the bulk of this figure with a collection target of at least P447 billion.

However, the BIR had requested the government to trim its P16-billion revenue target from administrative reforms by P5 billion. "The sentiment is that they could reduce the revenue from reform measures, but the bottom line of P447 billion should be maintained," he said.

Last year, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council allowed the BIR to reduce its revenue target by P20 billion from P408 billion after the government reduced its GDP target to 3.3 percent from 3.8 percent. However, officials said there was no sign that the DBCC would again cut its economic growth target of 4 to 4.5 percent this year on account of a stronger-than-expected growth last year. A one-percentage-point adjustment in the GDP target usually translates to a P5-billion impact on revenues. *Reuters*

Nasipit gives up rehab plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

CASH-STRAPPED Nasipit Lumber Co. Inc. has given up attempts to implement a rehabilitation program and has, instead, petitioned the Manila Regional Trial Court for liquidation, the company yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In view of the company's petition for insolvency and liquidation, the PSE yesterday suspended the trading of NAS stocks.

NAS, which is based in Agusan del Norte, is asking the court to appoint a liquidator who will be tasked to sell all its assets and settle its obligations.

A company is considered insolvent if its liabilities exceed its assets. As of end-2000, NAS has about P1 billion in liabilities, of which P511.86 million was current and P497 million was long-term. The total assets of the company as of the same period amounted to only P755.13 million.

Once the liquidation of its assets was authorized or its dissolution ordered by the court, the PSE would delist NAS from the local bourse.

In its disclosure, NAS said its stockholders' revoked during a recent stockholders meeting a petition for receivership and rehabilitation with the RTC.

The company opted to file a petition for liquidation "in view of the serious financial difficulties of the corporation, which has led to its non-operation for the past six years, and the difficulty of recovering considering the current economic climate."

NAS said in the disclosure that the liquidation of its assets was necessary in order to meet and settle its obligations, particularly to its employees. A company under liquidation has to prioritize tax and wage liabilities in the settlement of its liabilities. The creditors are next in the order of priority to be followed by the stockholders.

The lumber company suspended operations six years ago due to lack of funds to settle back wages, repair and replace necessary equipment and service debts.

Incorporated in 1946 and listed on the exchange in 1973, NAS engaged in the general lumber and timber business, with a forest concession covering 98,000 hectares in Tungao, Butuan City, and several municipalities. Its plant is located in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

NAS is majority owned by Martinez Leyba Inc., with Vicente Fernandez as chair and CEO.

BCDA SECURES $3.3-MILLION LEASE DEAL
Bases Conversion Development Authority chair Rogelio Singson receives an initial payment of $1.5 million from US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone Jr. for the lease of a 15-hectare area in Poro Point, La Union. The International Broadcasting Bureau will establish facilities at the former US naval base for its Voice of America operations. The balance of the $3.3-million lease agreement will be paid over 10 years. BCDA, John Hay-Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC) and US Embassv officials witness the signing ceremony.

91-day treasury bill yield falls to 7%

From page B1

place their money. There are only two tenors to put their money in after we suspended the auction of the one-year treasuries until March," Edeza said.

The 91-day treasury bill rate is supposedly used by banks in pricing their loans. However, banks have been criticized for applying huge spreads on their lending rates even to their so-called prime borrowers.

"I think the central bank had cut its rates not only to help the government lower its cost but more to encourage banks to lend and to help spur economic activity," Edeza said.

Bank lending, however, has yet to pick up to a level that would promote economic growth and the government has been blaming these lenders' "usurious" rates for their sluggish credit performance.

Zero tariff on urea, fertilizer raw materials sought

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL fertilizer companies have asked the Tariff Commission to remove the tariffs slapped on fertilizer grades that are used by the local market but are not produced commercially in the country.

In its petition to the Tariff Commission, the Fertilizer Industry Association of the Philippines sought the reduction of the tariff particularly on urea to zero from 3 percent.

The tariff reduction, FIAP president Raul V. Aristorenas Jr. said, will translate to savings of about P10 per bag on these fertilizer grades.

He said that raw materials used for fertilizer mix sold locally are 60 to 65 percent imported and their costs have increased due to the peso depreciation and the fluctuations of prices in the world market.

Aristorenas said the proposed tariff reduction would not affect the fertilizer grades being produced by the recently privatized Philippine Phosphate and Fertilizer Corp., one of the main sources of the fertilizer industry's raw materials.

"Philphos produces NPK (nitrogen phosphorus potash) and the 1620 fertilizer grades. Since it was privatized, however, it also started importing other grades and it is now directly competing with us in this aspect," explained Aristorenas, who also heads Bulk Commodities and Chemicals Corp.

Aristorenas said the privatization of Philphos was beneficial to the industry as it ensured a level playing field for all players. "Philphos can no longer lower its prices at artificial levels which distorted prices in the local market."

On top of the tariff reduction, the industry has been working on certain measures to lower fertilizer prices in the country. It is, for one, planning to consolidate its raw material importation to save on costs and invest in small-blending facilities that will ensure efficiency in the fertilizer firms' operations.

"Putting up fertilizer blending facilities, which can accommodate 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons each, will allow us to introduce new fertilizer packs of 10 kilograms and 50 kilograms, which are more marketable to small farmers," added Aristorenas.

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AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION

Bread maker puts up ₱250-M plant

GARDENIA Bakeries Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of Gardenia International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., has put up a P250-million fully automated bread manufacturing plant in line with the company's expansion plan.

The plant, built on the company's existing lot at the Laguna International Industrial park, will double Gardenia Bakeries' capacity from 50,000 to 100,000 loaves of bread per day. It will be inaugurated on March 1.

Gardenia Bakeries Phils. general manager Simplicio Umali Jr. said the P250 million infused by the Singapore-based parent company was used in the acquisition of new machinery and equipment.

The expansion was aimed at meeting the fast-growing demand for Gardenia products in the local market, mainly in Metro Manila and nearby Luzon provinces.

Last year, the company posted total sales of P320 million. It is projecting a 50-percent growth in sales this year.

The new plant boasts of a fully computerized bread-making technology. It utilizes the latest equipment for large scale baking from the United States and Europe.

Gardenia's baking process, the only one in the country, guarantees that each loaf of bread is of the same size, shape, texture and color. The Gardenia baking process is unique because its state-of-the-art electronics and computer-controlled technology allow production of top quality bread that is "untouched by human hands."

Now on its fifth year in the local market, Gardenia, according to Umali, is now the leader in the local bread market. It now accounts for 50 percent of the bread sales of supermarkets.

Gardenia bread products are sold in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Olongapo, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Quezon.

It is planning to cover the Visayas and Mindanao markets but Umali said this would require the company to put up another plant either of the two islands.

"Meanwhile we will concentrate on reaching more consumers in Metro Manila and Luzon, which means increasing production capacity and intensifying our sales and distribution process."

Total's LPG unit increasing capacity

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUPERKALAN Gaz Corp., TotalFineElf Philippines Corp.'s liquefied petroleum gas unit, will spend about P120 million for the expansion of its operations this year.

The amount is 20 percent more than last year's investments of Total of P100 million.

Superkalan president Roberto Velasquez said P70 million of the amount would go to its Superkalan division while about P50 million would go Totalgaz operations.

Superkalan started as a subsidiary of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. in 1984 and was spun off in 1992. TotalFineElf acquired the firm in 1999.

Superkalan has an average monthly turn over of P40 million or about P480 million a year.

"Our target market is the CD crowd," he noted. "Our 2.7-kg cylinders are much cheaper than the 11-kg ones."

The Superkalan chief said the firm was selling about 10,000 tons a year but it expects the volume to decline this year.

"We are losing at least 20 percent of our business to illegal refillers," Velasquez explained.

Superkalan has been growing by 15 percent yearly since 1992. It, however, started to decline right after the oil industry was deregulated.

Superkalan has a refilling plant in Taguig worth about P280 million. The plant has a capacity of 30 metric tons.

The Taguig facility's asset base has grown by about P50 million since its inauguration in January 2000, the official said.

Velasquez said the firm planned to double within two months its refilling capacity of the 11-kg Totalgaz cylinders from 2,500 to 5,000 cylinders a day.

Shares end flat

From page B1

Cruz said the sharp early rebound after three days of losses last week appeared to be premature.

"It may be too soon after the correction (last week) to expect such a rebound . . . technically you need to consolidate around 1,400 points (in the main index) before moving back up again," he said.

Cruz saw the market moving back into a period of tight rangebound trading over coming days.

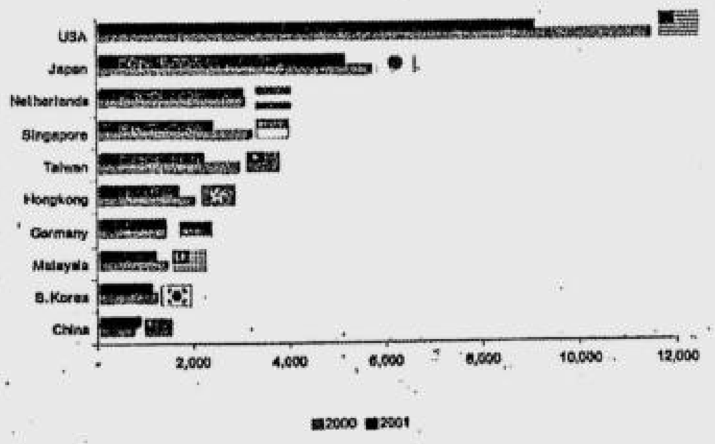
"All of the recent good news have been factored in," he said, adding activity was likely to be light on Thursday with many local and some foreign fund managers attending an investment conference scheduled that day in Manila. *Reuters*

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 10 export market

(January to December 2000 & 2001, in $ millions)



Source: NSO

THE UNITED States remains the Philippines' top export market with 27.92-percent share of total export despite a decline of almost 2 percentage points compared with 2000 figures. Japan, the second leading market saw its share rise from 14.73 percent in 2000 to 15.73 percent last year. Total exports last year fell 15.6 percent.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

THREE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Auto parts exports expected to double to $2B in 3 years

A 15.4-percent plunge in the country's total exports last year did not deter the automotive industry from projecting a rapid growth in its export sales beginning this year. The industry is projecting its exports sales to reach $2 billion in 2004, or double of last year's $1billion.

Automotive parts manufacturing is the country's third biggest industry behind electronics and garments. It joined the elite group of billion-dollar industries in 2000 when it hauled in $1 billion in export sales.

Lumped with machinery and transport equipment that included assembled buses, trucks, cars and motorcycles, it was the second biggest export earner last year with receipts of $6.1 billion.

Its performance has, however, gone unnoticed by the general public because National Statistics Office (NSO) reports classify the industry's export goods as specific products.

Automotive industry products include electrical wiring used in all types of vehicles from cars to airplanes, gear boxes, alloy wheels, tires, brakes and clutches, radiators, batteries, filters, silencers and laminated safety glasses.

The ambitious three-year export target was announced by automotive industry leaders and officials of the Department of Trade and Industry. This represents the goal of the automotive industry cluster's business plan.

The industry plan was included in the final draft of the Philippine Export Development Plan for the years 2002 to 2004 which is awaiting the President's approval.

The plan indicated that the target was attainable in the light of the average yearly growth in vehicle demand of 12 percent. The Asian region is, in fact, becoming one of the industry's most significant markets. The domestic market is also growing and the local climate for investments and growth is getting better.

With some help from the government, wiring harness alone is expected to grow by an average of 10 percent a year to reach $767 million in the year 2004. The rest of the other product lines are also seen to grow by an average of 10 percent a year. ***Abe P. Belena, Philexport News and Features***

Gov't names 6th nominee to PNB board

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration yesterday appointed sugar baron Franklin Fuentebella to the 11-member board of Philippine National Bank (PNB).

Fuentebella will be the government's sixth nominee to the bank board.

The problem, however, is that there is still no vacancy for a new board member. The position will be opened only when the memorandum of agreement between the government and Lucio Tan on the bank's rehabilitation is signed.

Fuentebella was also one of the five people that the Macapagal administration appointed earlier to the board of San Miguel Corp. He, however, never had the chance to assume this position.

Fuentebella served as director of the Republic Planters Bank, now MayBank Phils., in the 1980s. He chairs one of the rural banks in Negros Occidental and is president of a financing company.

He obtained his degree in engineering from De La Salle University and his master's degree in business administration from the University of the Philippines.

In defending the administration's choice, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the intention was to "diversify" the composition of the PNB board.

Camacho said the government was still working on the memorandum of agreement with Tan for the conversion of part of the P25 billion government advances into equity in PNB.

The MOA, originally scheduled for signing on Jan. 20 and was later reset to Feb. 28, has yet to be inked pending the final approval of a deal by the Department of Justice.

GOINGS-ON

Asia's best retailer

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the leader in the local shopping mall industry, won two distinctions in Euromoney's recently concluded sixth annual poll of credit and equity analysts of major banks and research institutes throughout Asia.

The company was voted best company both in the Philippines and in Asia in the retail sector. Euromoney, a European business magazine based in London, published the survey results in its February 2002 issue.

In the article "Asia's Best Companies: Vision, transparency and focus give Asia's best an edge," Euromoney focused on the companies that managed to stand out as the region's most resilient performers and cream of the crop.

Coming in second and third after SM Prime among the best Philippine companies are Jollibee Foods and ABS-CBN, respectively.

New AVPs

INSULAR Life chair and president Vicente R. Ayllon recently announced the promotion of Reynaldo R. Aldaba and Engeline T. Ureta to assistant vice presidents, and the appointment of Ma. Eleanor Christina S. Castañeda as another AVP and head of Salary Savings Insurance (SSI) marketing department.

Aldaba joined Insular Life in 1987 and has been in the field of sales operations since 1988.

Ureta joined Insular Life in 1982 and has been heading the company's audit staff since 1997.

Castañeda brings with her an extensive experience in business development, corporate sales, and credit and trust banking.

MBA orientation

PETER Rafferty of the Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School (VLGMS), one of the top 10 leading European business schools, invites interested Filipino executives to attend the MBA orientation which will be held on Feb. 28, at iBank Exchange training rooms 1, 2 and 3, 142 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

So far, 34 students from the Philippines have graduated from this MBA program since 1980.

Interested applicants may contact Gerry Ducduc at 414-6241 to 45 or e-mail your inquiries to Roger S. Chua, president, erdmmc@yahoo.com or Ed Canlas, incoming president, at arcanlas@skyinet.net.

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Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines
February 26 to 28, 2002
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Country Club, Baguio City

Aries Espinosa *Editor*
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Scaling the Northern Heights through Information Technology

MORE than just pine trees and cool climate, Baguio takes pride of place as the most progressive city in the northern mountain regions. It is a city not only of blooming gardens but also of booming businesses, not just flourishing greens but also of fresh new opportunities.

Apart from its tourism industry, this bastion of the north still holds a wealth of untapped potential in the field of information technology. Like the rich mountain soil that nurtures Baguio's greenery, the city has fostered the growth and development of a dynamic IT industry. Residents have long realized the advantages that modern technology can contribute to their lives – at home, in the office and in the academe.

Seeking to further promote and elevate the standards of information technology in this promising atmosphere, the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (Comddap) is taking its annual regional Comddap exhibit to Baguio City for the first time in 2002.

Now on its 16th year, Comddap sets another milestone in its calendar of accomplishments. Comddap Baguio 2002 aims to be the first of many Comddap exhibits held in this northern city. With this auspicious beginning, the Association looks forward to exploring new heights in its continuing growth as an organization and in its commitment to bring I.T. to more users all over the country.

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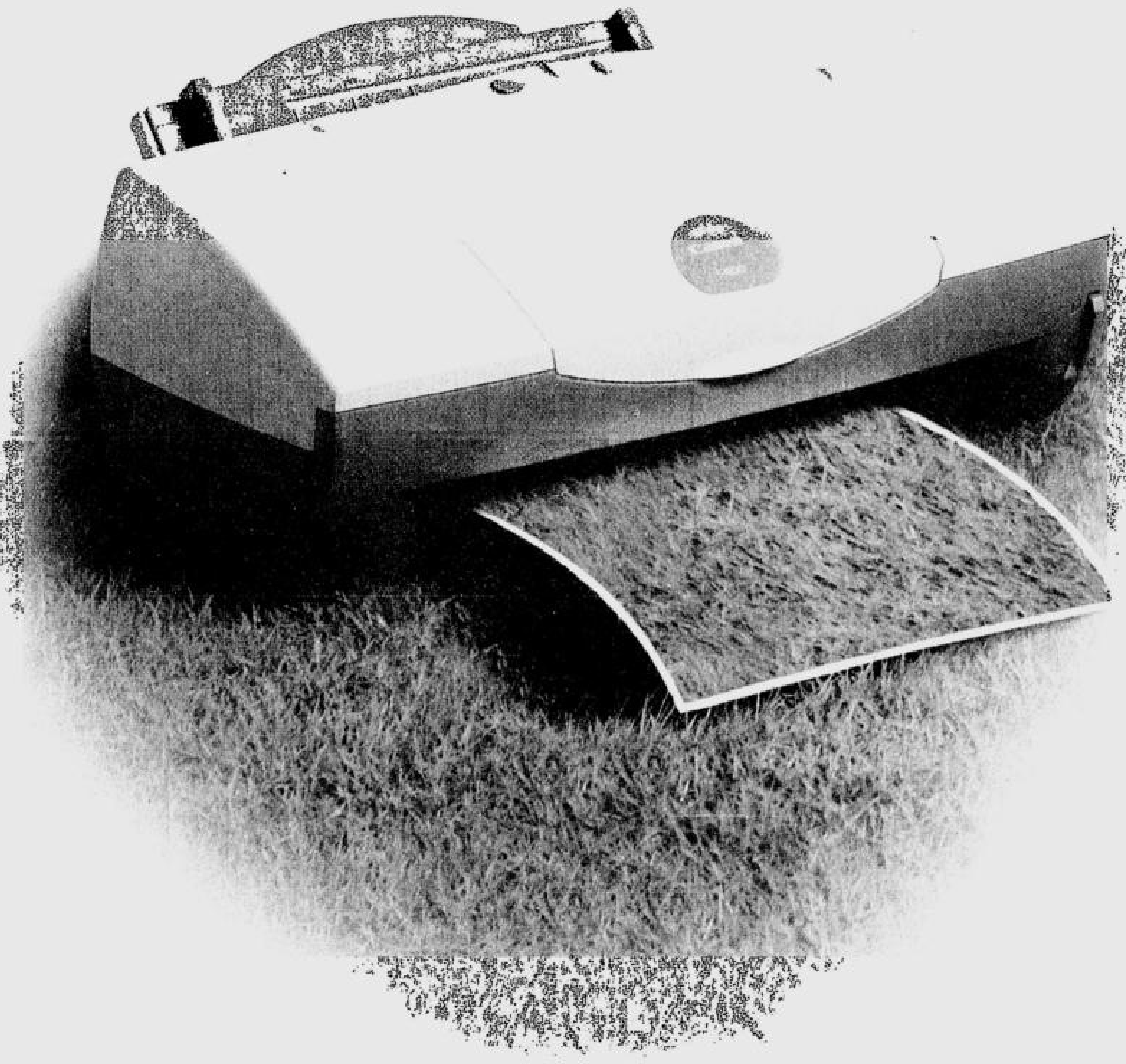

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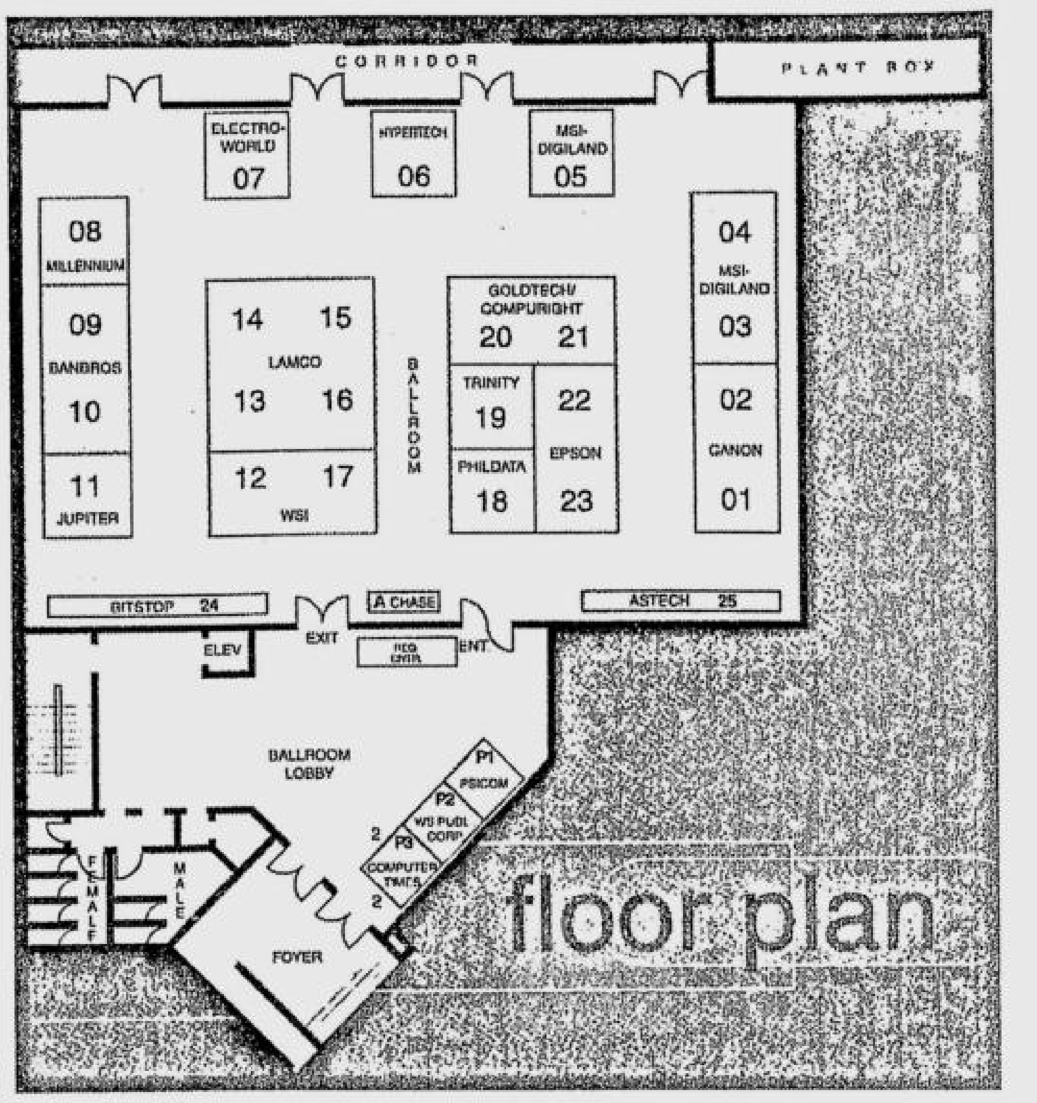

Technology update schedule

Day 1, February 26 (Tuesday)

10:30 to 12:30
- Pinnacle: Basic Video Editing
  (Glee Electronics Inc.)

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- NAI and Macromedia Solutions
  for the Academe
  (Wordtext Systems Inc.)

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Microsoft, Autodesk
  and Discreet Solutions for the Academe
  (Wordtext Systems Inc.)

6 to 9 p.m.
- Canopus Non-Linear Editing
  Computer Devices

Day 2, February 27 (Wednesday)

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Microsoft: The New Microsoft eXPerience
  (Office XP and Windows XP)
  Wordtext Systems Inc.

10:30 to 12:30
- ASUS Innovative Solutions
  for Limitless Tomorrow
  Altec Lansing PC Gaming
  and Desktop Theater Speaker Systems
  Banbros Commercial Inc.

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Digital Radio Automation
  JTJ Trading Inc.

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Pinnacle: Video Editing & Authoring for
  Business Application
  GLEE ELECTRONICS, INC.

Day 3, February 28 (Thursday)

8 to 10 a.m.
- Microsoft: The New Microsoft eXPerience
  (Office XP and Windows XP)
  Wordtext Systems Inc.

10:30 to 12:30
- ASUS The Best Value Notebook PC
  Matrox / BeTwin Video
  and Video Editing Solutions
  Banbros Commercial Inc.

1 to 3 p.m.
- Avaya, IBM, Orinoco: End-to-end
  Solutions for the Enterprise
  Wordtext Systems Inc.

3:30 to 5:30
- Pinnacle: Special Effect and DVD Authoring
  Glee Electronics Inc.

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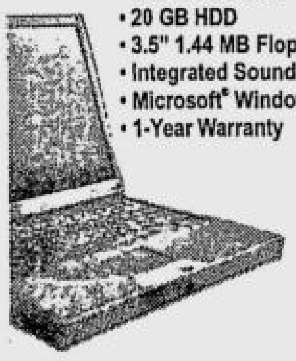

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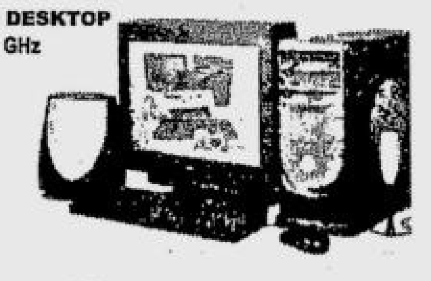

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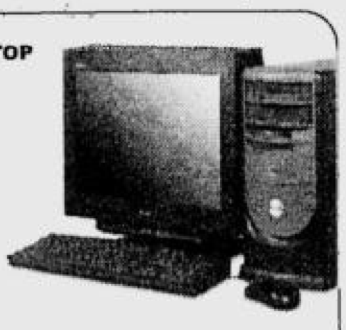

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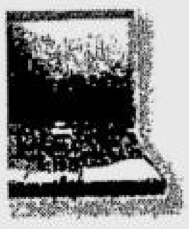

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Better governance to lift Asian stock returns

HONG KONG—Asian companies could enjoy higher share prices and give investors better returns by improving corporate governance, a research conducted by accountancy and investment firms shows.

The region's often opaque business practices, weak disclosure standards and tightly controlled ownership structures raise suspicions among some global fund managers that investors are getting a raw deal and that the region is best left alone.

"Research shows a 7.1-percent increase in share price within the first year of enhanced disclosure over the change in share price of a peer group." Marion Hannon, a partner at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) in Hong Kong, told Reuters.

The accounting and consultancy firm says there are immense benefits from "ValueReporting," a term it uses to describe the disclosure of all information demanded by markets to ensure that a company's stock is properly valued.

The giant $151-billion California Public Employees' Pension Scheme thrust the governance issue into prominence last week when it blacklisted for Southeast Asian nations—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand—on tough ethical investing grounds.

The four join China, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—off limits for financial reasons—on Calper's no-go list.

Amar Gill, head of Hong Kong research at investment analytics firm, CLSA Emerging Markets, says the reason for adopting best practices on corporate governance is clear.

"In 2001, the top companies (ranked by corporate governance) in practically all markets in Asia, with the exception of Thailand, outperformed the country index," said Gill, who authored CLSA's corporate governance in emerging markets report last year.

The controversial 2001 study ranked 495 companies in 25 markets and found strong correlation between governance—based on 57 issues in seven categories—and share performance in Asia, sparking an outcry from firms that fared badly.

The study found share prices of Asia's top quartile companies on average outperformed their individual country markets by 49 basis points for each of the three years to end-2000.

The lowest quartile companies underperformed market averages by 20 basis points.

The report, which CLSA was considering whether to release to the media in an updated form this year, ranked Asia overall as the world's second worst emerging market in governance terms, behind South Africa and Latin America, but in front of Eastern Europe.

But it is not all bad news in Asia.

Singapore and Hong Kong were ranked by CLSA as having the best governance across all global emerging markets.

And PwC had two companies each from Hong Kong and Singapore in its list of 61 of the world's most transparent firms in its recently published ValueReporting Forecast 2002. *Reuters*

ILO: Jobless youths threaten stable development in Asia

BANGKOK, Thailand—The International Labor Organization is urging governments in the Asia-Pacific region to control ballooning youth unemployment, which it says is threatening to undermine the region's development.

The UN agency said in a statement that by 2010, the global youth population is expected to reach almost 1.2 billion, an increase of 116 million, with two-thirds of this growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

To discuss the problems, the ILO will hold a regional meeting on Wednesday, bringing together government, employer and worker representatives from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

The ILO statement said youth unemployment already stood at an unprecedented 66 million worldwide, making up more than 40 percent of the world's total jobless.

Underemployment is making the situation worse in both developed and developing countries with vast numbers of young people working much less than their capacities would permit, the statement said.

It said youth unemployment and underemployment were linked with social problems such as crime, vandalism and drugs, and "perpetuate a vicious cycle of poverty and exclusion."

At the meeting Wednesday, a panel of young people from Thailand will describe their personal experiences searching for work.

The meeting will focus on country experiences and identify strategies for national action plans and youth employment programs, the statement said.

It said the meeting was linked with an initiative on youth unemployment launched by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, bringing together the United Nations, the ILO and the World Bank.

Participants will review the results of country studies and discuss project proposals designed to tackle youth joblessness at the national level. *AP*

More HK companies expect to lay off employees this year

HONG KONG—More Hong Kong companies are expected to lay off staff this year, as the territory's jobless rate jumped to a record 6.7 percent in the January quarter, it was reported Tuesday.

A survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed that 43 percent of 160 firms questioned were planning to make redundancies this year and more than a third of the employers also said they would freeze recruitment.

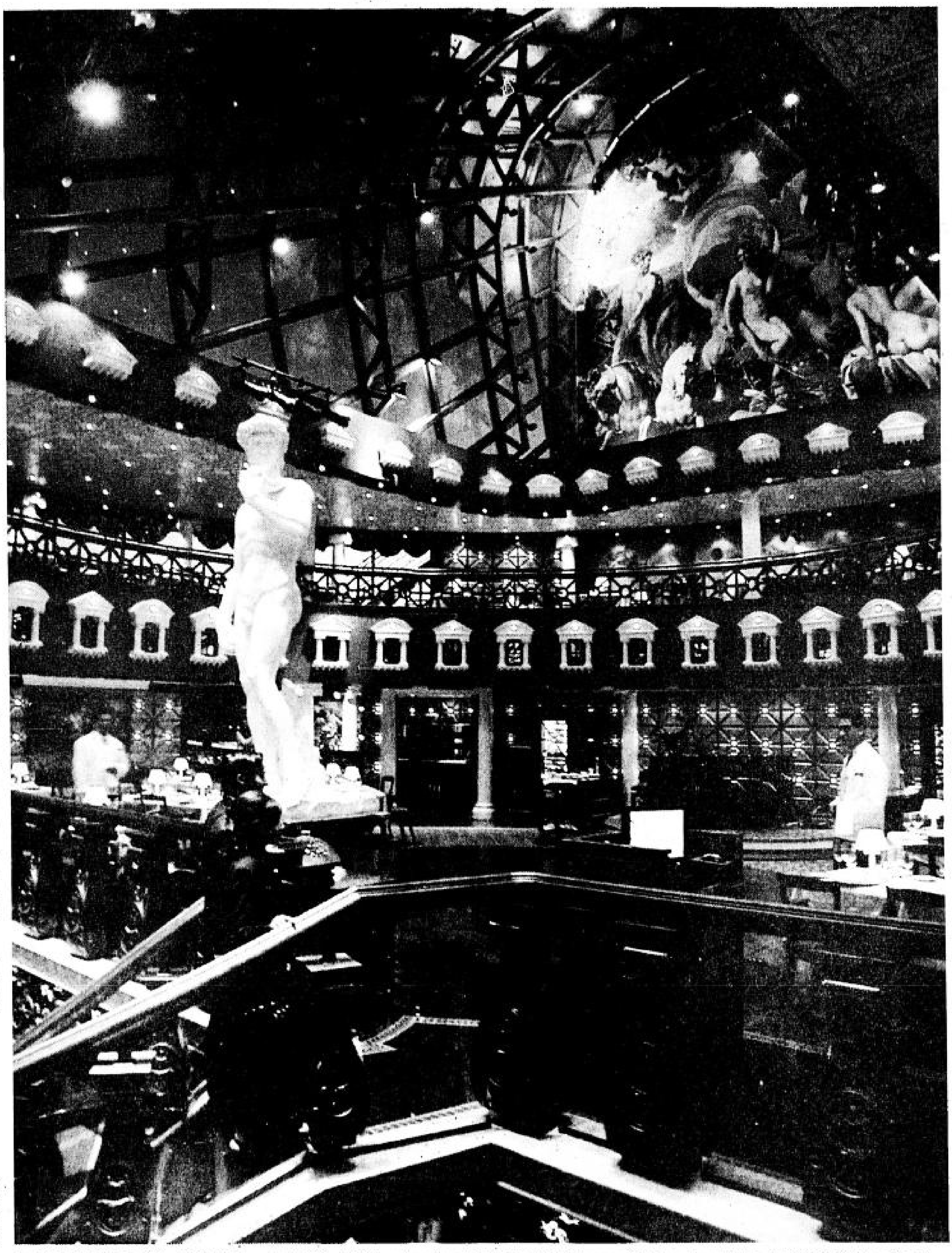
But the financial services firm said the poll results were better than expected as a minority of companies were planning to lay off staff, and most companies might have already made the cuts needed to see them through the economic downturn.

"There seems to be somewhat more general optimism than one might have expected," Patrick Paul, partner in the human resource consulting arm of the financial service company, was cited by the South China Morning Post as saying.

Of the companies expecting lay-offs, 87 percent said they would lose fewer than 10 percent of their employees.

The survey comes as Hong Kong's unemployment reached a record high of 6.7 percent for the three months to January—higher than during the 1997 Asian financial crisis—as companies continued to slash staff numbers to weather the economic downturn.

The figure compared with 6.1 percent in the three months to December and 6.2 percent in the three months to October 1999 in the aftermath of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis. *AFP*



A REPRODUCTION of Michelangelo's "David" is a focal point in David's Supper Club onboard the Carnival Pride, shown in this undated photo. In the new millennium, cruise passengers have more choices and options than ever before. From shiny new megaships to thrill-seeking shore excursions. AP

US airlines slowly beginning to regain altitude

WASHINGTON—Walloped by an economic recession and the Sept. 11 attacks, US airlines are slowly beginning to regain altitude as the economy shows the first signs of revival and the shell-shocked public is regaining a taste for travel.

"We are still not obviously back to anything like normal, but we are closing the gap," said David Swierenga, chief economist at the Air Transport Association.

"Each month we are improving a bit on the numbers we had recorded immediately after Sept. 11," he noted.

He said that thanks to continued fare sales and restored passenger confidence in air travel, the industry was seeing a steady upward movement in passenger traffic.

In January, the traffic was down 13 percent compared with the first month of 2001, a significant improvement from the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks when traffic dropped 35 percent.

To keep up with growing demand, the airlines have begun increasing their capacity, according to Richard Bittenbender, an airline analyst at Moody's Investors service.

The second largest US carrier, United Airlines, has recently announced its decision to rehire 1,200 former employees to serve on 127 additional daily flights the company plans to introduce in April.

After Sept. 11, the airlines were forced to reduce their capacity by 20 percent to adjust to the slumping demand.

As many as 80,000 jobs were eliminated in the process.

The positive trends have led industry analysts to conclude that many airlines will return to profitability sometime in the second or third quarter of the year when air travel usually picks up.

However, experts predict that for the overall year, the airlines are expected to remain largely in the red.

But they note that losses are likely to be much smaller than the $7 billion that vanished in 2001.

Even though positive trends appear to be in evidence, it does not mean the economic crisis and uncertainties associated with the terrorist threat have been left behind, analysts point out.

The risk of another terrorist attack still remains, according to US officials.

Bittenbender said the airline load factors seem to be stabilizing at reasonable levels around 70 percent.

"The airlines have said there is evidence of increased demand and so they are going to add capacities to the system," he said. "On the negative side, yields remain quite weak so it's important that the industry very carefully balance how quickly it adds back capacities."

Swierenga, for his part, noted that the airlines were expected to receive 200 new planes this year, which is far fewer than the 350 aircraft purchased in each 2001 and 2000. *AFP*

IMF names new director to deal with crises

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund on Monday created a new position of director for special operations aimed at helping the lender respond better to crisis situations in member-countries like Argentina.

The lender named veteran staffer Anoop Singh, an Indian national, to the new position. His previous job, as deputy director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, gave Singh plenty of experience with crises. In that position, he was on the frontlines of IMF efforts to tackle the Asian crisis of 1997-1999 in countries like Thailand and Indonesia.

Singh assumes immediate responsibility for leading IMF staff working with Argentine authorities to try to reach agreement on an economic program that could eventually lead to the resumption of aid to Buenos Aires.

"This initiative will enhance the ability of the fund to respond to critical situations affecting its member-countries," IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler said in a statement. *Reuters*

Boeing to offer quieter 747 jet in two years

SEATTLE—Boeing Co. has begun developing a new version of its widebody 747-400 jet, which is about 20 percent quieter on takeoff and as much as 40 percent quieter on landing than the current model.

The new model, called the 747-400X Quieter Longer Range, was to be officially unveiled Tuesday at an air show in Singapore, 747 brand manager Bill Droppelman said Monday in a conference call with journalists.

The company is hoping to find a buyer for the airplane by June, Droppelman said, and hopes to deliver the first of the airplanes by March 2004. The company intends to build both a freighter and a passenger version, he said.

The new model is in response to tougher European environmental regulations and pressure to make airplanes quieter, Droppelman said. *AP*

Moody's trims credit for Marubeni

TOKYO—Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday cut its senior debt rating for major Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp. on skepticism over the benefits of a restructuring announced by the firm.

The global ratings agency lowered Marubeni's rating to B1 from Ba3 and said the ratings outlook was negative.

"This rating action reflects Moody's view that Marubeni's projected restructuring efforts may not significantly reduce its overall business risk profile," it said. *AFP*

Asia has become dumping ground for obsolete tech products

SAN FRANCISCO—An international network of environmental groups claimed Monday that China, Pakistan and India had become the world's dumping ground for toxic technology garbage, warning there was no limit on their size as users dump older computers and other high-tech gear.

The amount of "electronic" or "e-waste" is growing at a rate of 18 percent annually, charged the coalition that included Greenpeace China, SCOPE of Pakistan, Toxics Link India and the US-based Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, with 1998 figures tabulated by the US National Safety Council exceeding 7 million tons.

Discarded computers and other gear contain a "witches' brew" of toxic substances, including PVC plastic refuse, lead, brominated flame retardants, barium and phosphor, the groups said, putting the onus for the dumping on the United States and other "rich economies" that contribute 80 percent of e-waste.

These countries "made use of a convenient, and until now, hidden escape valve—exporting the e-waste crisis to the developing countries in Asia," the activists stated in a report.

Among the most egregious dumping sites is the formerly bucolic area known as Guiyu in China's Guangdong Province, off the Lianjiang River, a four-hour drive northeast of Hong Kong.

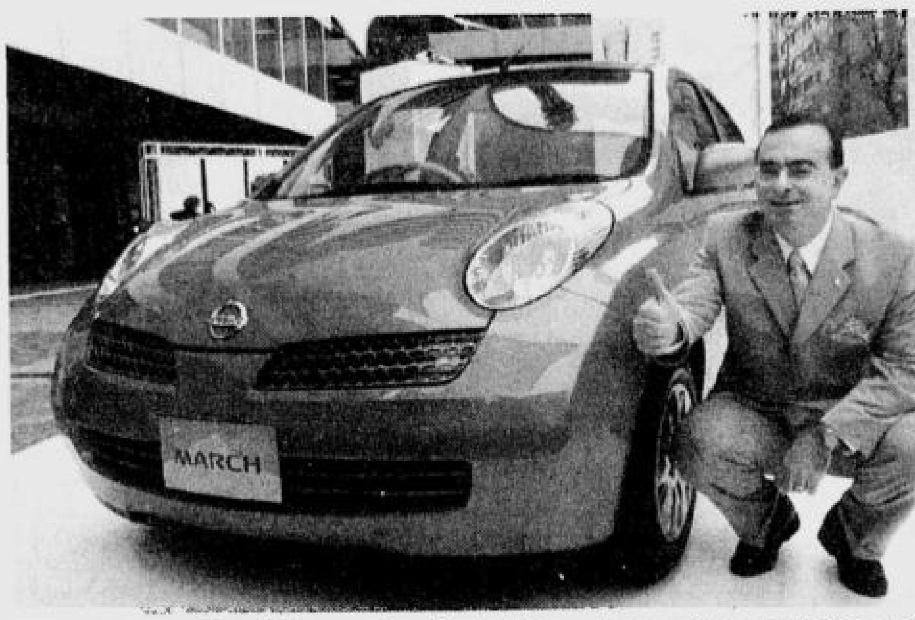
As many as 100,000 poor men, women and children use hammers, chisels and other crude tools to bust apart discarded computers and computer monitors, earning pennies for the computer junk recycling they do.

The workers are "often unaware of the health and environmental hazards involved in operations," including open burning of plastics and wires, using acid to extract gold, melting and burning soldered circuit boards and cracking and dumping toxic lead laden cathode ray tubes used in computer monitors.

These pollutants are being dumped into the Lianjiang River, as well as along the banks, in open fields and in irrigation canals, polluting ground water. Such dumping has necessitated the import of potable water, the report said.

The mess is a "cyber-age nightmare," claimed coalition spokesperson Jim Puckett. "They call this recycling, but it's really dumping by another name."

Other e-waste sites are thought to exist on the Asian subcontinent, the coalition reported—in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi and in New Delhi in India. *AFP*



NISSAN Motor Co. chief executive Carlos Ghosn shows off the new Nissan March, or Micra as it is called in Europe, during a launching in Tokyo. The March, equipped with 1-, 1.2- or 1.4-liter engines and priced at between 953,000 yen ($7,130) and 1,320,000 yen ($9,870), was developed from a platform shared by Nissan and partner Renault SA of France. The March will be released in Japan on March 5 and will be on sale in Europe next year. AP

Koizumi readies Japan reform plan

TOKYO—From the average consumer's point of view, it's hard to carp about falling prices—especially in Japan, where people shell out big wads of yen for everything from Big Macs to business suits.

But the trend is hollowing out Japan's economy so fast that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has branded it the No. 1 obstacle to economic survival.

On the eve of a much-anticipated announcement of how he intends to fight deflation, however, economists and investors remained wary Tuesday of whether he would be able to turn things around.

Koizumi, who has pledged to take "all the necessary steps" to fix the problem, was to announce the plan on Wednesday. While leaking few details of what the plan contains, he has called action "necessary for any growth in the future."

Still, economists on Tuesday remained wary.

"Something must be done to stop the deflationary spiral," said Atsushi Nakajima, an analyst for the Industrial Bank of Japan. "But it is doubtful whether the plan will be effective."

Economy Minister Heizo Takenaka has said the plan will target five basic areas: getting rid of the banks' bad loans; stabilizing the financial system; re-energizing financial markets; helping small- and medium-sized companies get loans; and, loosening monetary policy.

Achieving those goals might entail setting a target for rising prices, using public money to bail out the banking sector, changing tax laws to encourage spending or letting problem companies go bust.

Economists once thought a modest easing of prices would be good for Japan, which was slumping through its third recession in a decade. But the easing of prices has gone beyond modest.

For the average consumer, falling prices have significantly diminished the value of homes and increased the burden of paying interest on debts. The trend has also discouraged people from buying big-ticket items, such as cars or property, because they know they can get them even cheaper in the future.

Deflation's impact on Japan's struggling companies is even worse. Falling prices slash the value of their factories, the land they hold as collateral and the worth of their stock portfolios.

Underlining how serious the trend has become, consumer prices slid for the 28th month in a row in December, falling 1.2 percent from the year before.

"Without action, there will be a crisis," warned economist Andrew Smithers, of Smithers & Co. Ltd., a longtime advocate of fanning price increases to get Japan's economy on track. "The speed of deterioration of the Japanese economy could be very violent." *AP*

Intel CEO: New products will carry tech out of slump

SAN FRANCISCO—The recovery of the high-tech industry from its worst-ever recession hinges on innovation and the release of new products that excite users, Intel Corp. chief executive Craig Barrett said.

Barrett said Monday Intel's decision to continue spending on research, development and manufacturing during the downturn was paying off as the company was now producing faster and cheaper processors than ever before.

"The only way to get out of a recession is with new products," Barrett told about 4,000 attendees of the Intel Developer Forum. "Old technology does not sell. You need to continue to invest."

The world's largest chipmaker said it was shipping its first server chips based on its flagship Pentium 4 microprocessor. The fastest runs at 2.2 gigahertz, the same speed as its top-of-the-line desktop chip.

The so-called Xeon server processors also are the first to incorporate a technology called hyperthreading, which tricks software into thinking it is running on two microprocessors rather than one.

Eventually, hyperthreading will be incorporated into Pentium 4-based desktops found in homes and offices.

The company also said it is now building processors using a smaller process technology, and more individual chips are being built on larger silicon wafers. The combination allows Intel to build four times as many processors per wafer at significant cost savings.

Still, Barrett did not offer any specifics about Intel's current financial performance. *AP*

Microsoft developing new software for small businesses

REDMOND, Washington—Microsoft Corp.'s recently acquired Great Plains business software division is developing software for small businesses to store and share customer information, the company said Monday.

The software, called customer relationship management, or CRM, allows employees to track things like what products a customer has purchased and whether the customer needed repairs or service. It can also link to a company's financial catalog to provide sales estimates, discounts and cross-promotions, and can be used to create a marketing database based on customers' buying habits.

Many companies, including some of Microsoft's business partners, already make CRM software. But David Thacher, Microsoft CRM general manager, said most of the companies that already make the software are geared more toward larger businesses. The software giant believes it has an edge by focusing its efforts in smaller businesses with anywhere from 25 to several hundred employees, Thacher said.

"There's not enough companies in this size market," Thacher said, adding that he thinks the market could eventually grow into a multibillion-dollar industry.

A main factor is cost. Microsoft's product will cost somewhere between $20,000 and $50,000, Thacher said, whereas CRM for larger companies can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. *AP*

Lawsuit over copy-protected music compact disc settled

SAN JOSE, California—Makers of a Charley Pride CD, the first known copy-protected compact disc released in the United States, have agreed to warn consumers it is not compatible with computer CD-ROM drives or DVD players.

The agreement settles a lawsuit filed in a Marin County court by Karen DeLise, a California woman who was upset after she discovered her new "Charley Pride—A Tribute to Jim Reeves" CD contained a copy protection scheme from SunnComm Inc. that prevented the disc from being played in her PC. The technology deters consumers from swapping music over the Internet or making unlimited personal copies of a CD for car stereos or portable MP3 music players.

DeLise sued SunnComm and the record's distributors, independent record label Music City Records and Fahrenheit Entertainment, in September, claiming they failed to put an adequate disclaimer on the CD's package. *AP*

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN

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Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID
For the SALE of Waste Oil
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : March 11, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
WASTE OIL (Lube) Power Barge 120, Balanacan, Mogpog, Marinduque Torrijos DPP, Brgy. Cagpo, Torijos, Marinduque Boac DPP, Bgy. Bantad, Boac, Marinduque	P0.45 / Liter

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 2:00 PM at NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P. F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) R. C. CASTILLO
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 25, 26 & 27, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Change of Name in the Certificate of Live Birth Marivic Pavonan Revilla

Petition Entry No. ___

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that MARIVIC PAVONAN REVILLA has filed with this Office a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME FROM "MARIA VICTORIA TO MARIVIC" in the CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH of MARIVIC PAVONAN REVILLA.

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of this petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of national circulation. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Feb. 27 & Mar. 6, 2002)

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OFC. STAFF 913-4470 ALLEN

Ofc staff Pamela 9134470

OFF STAFF 913-4470 MS. FE

OFFICE STAFF COL. LEV/GRAD 18-45 y.o 7492993 MS. BHEA

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that ACR No. E-077711 & ICR No. 184162 in favor of Ma. Josefina Remedios Ortigas was lost. If found, pls. return to Bi-Intramuros.
(PDI-Feb. 20 & 27, 2002)

PASSPORT owned by CARMELITA A. PARADELA and Plane Ticket w/No. SV867 was lost. If found pls. call the owner@6204115.
(PDI-February 27, 2002)

Stock Cert. of CK Manufacturing Corp. SC #4 for 200, SC #13 for 100, SC #19 for 2000 & SC #1 for 600 SC #6 for 200, SC #12 for 800 No constest presented w/in 3 consecutive weeks of publication new cert. will be issued.
(PDI-Feb.20,27&Mar.6,2002)

PERSONAL

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"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

"NENON" / "BADONG"
JESUS SALVADOR ESTRADA RODRIGUEZ

January 11, 1942 - February 25, 2002

Peacefully joined his Creator on Monday, February 25, 2002.

*His loving wife **Angie Fernandez**; children **Chayong** and **Joey Camus**, **Cecile**, **Suyen** and **Josh Roldan**, **Stephanie**, and **Tboy**; grandchildren **Isabel**, **Joaquin**, and **Micaela Camus**, **Katrina Roldan**, **Daniella** and **Paolo**; mother-in-law **Lourdes Fernandez**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Marilou** and **Roland Laurena**, **Tess** and **Pec** (†) **Castro**, **Noni**, **Maggie** and **Edgar Morales**, **Linda** and **Ting Angeles**, **Benjie** and **Carol**, **Chito** and **Anna**, **George** and Beads together with his relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His body lies in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will follow after the 6:30 p.m. Mass tomorrow, Thursday, February 28, 2002.

The Funeral Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 1, 2002 at Santuario de San Antonio. Interment will follow after.

In lieu of flowers a donation to the Philippine Foundation for Cultural and Educational Development will be appreciated.

ROBERTO ROXAS MANAHAN

22 November 1965 - 25 February 2002

His loving parents **RONI** and **MEG**; brothers and sisters-in-law **DOJIE** and **SALLY**, **RICKY** and **ARLENE**, **CHINKY** and **ROSE**, and **ARVIE**; nephew **RIGO**; nieces **ROSELLE**, **MARGOT**, **PIA** and **MINA**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, 02 March 2002 at 7:00 a.m. Cremation will immediately follow.

"Goodbye, Papa, God has you in His keeping,
but you will always be in our hearts."

OSCAR S. YABUT

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 26th day of February 2002
at the age of 59.

together with our loving Mama **EVELINDA**; we his children **J[illegible]TO NARCISO**, **MA. OLIVIA & RONALD**, and **M[illegible]ICHELLE**; his grandchildren **MIGUEL OSCAR** and **AA[illegible]ON GABRIEL**; brothers and sister, in-laws; relatives and friends request you to pray for him in his eternal journey with our Lord.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at Solace II, Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City where he shall await you final goodbyes until Saturday, the 2nd of March.

Cremation rites will be at Loyola Memorial Park-Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

"...absent
with the body
to be present
with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

"In Christ all shall be made alive..." Corinthians 15:22

JUDGE DOMINADOR T. DOMINGO

of Aparri, Cagayan

August 1924 - February 22, 2002

His wife Nicolasa; children and in-laws **Kathy** & Mar, **Evelyn**, **Ferdie** & Lynn, **Philip** & Fe, **Rose** & Rene, **Ditas** & Fred, **Divina**, **Marie** and Alikhan

His mother-in-law Eulalia T. Agliam; brother Leon; sisters Erlinda and Cleotilde; sister-in-law Rosita

His grandchildren Meg, Krissie, King, Marlon, Markie, BJ, Angela, Kaye, Roscoe, Dominic, Kayla, Matthew, Nicole, Kenneth and AJ

nephews, nieces and relatives

request your prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state up to March 2, 2002 at the **Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City**. He will be buried on **Saturday, March 2, 2002** at the **Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina** after the **1:00 p.m. Mass at Mount Carmel Shrine.**

We design OBITUARIES for free.

CASTO Q. BARROS, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 24, 2002 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **LULU**; children **CHRISTIAN**, **CLARENCE** and **NADINE**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. John's Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Sto. Domingo Church.

So lovingly remembered
on the **Eigth Death Anniversary** of

JOVENCIO L. VALEÑA

February 27, 1994

Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

St. Peter's Parish, Calauag, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
Most Holy Rosary Parish, Lopez, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
San Isidro de Labrador Parish, Hondagua, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
San Diego de Alcala Cathedral, Gumaca, Quezon	**5:45 a.m.**
Carmelite Monastery, Gumaca, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
Monastery of St. Claire, Lopez, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Lopez, Quezon	**6:00 a.m.**
Society of the Divine Word, Kamuning, Quezon City	**6:00 a.m.**
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Quezon City	**7:30 a.m.**
Parish of St[illegible] Teresita, Quezon City	**7:00 a.m.**
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Quezon City	**6:00 a.m.**

His family requests relatives and friends
to remember him in prayers.

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PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY
MANILA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PTA hereby invites interested parties to pre-qualify/ apply for eligibility and to bid for the Design and Construction of a Light and Sound Museum of Philippine History at Sta. Lucia Street in Intramuros, Manila.

Interested parties must be a Producer in tie-up or in joint-venture with a Contractor who has produced and constructed a similar project, or has substantial experience in undertaking projects of similar scale. The total cost of project is estimated at Seventy Million Pesos (P70,000,000.00).

The Contractor required for the project must possess a PCAB License with Category AAA or Large B in Building while the Producer must have ample experience in the production of lights and sound, or related fields.

Pre-qualification/Eligibility Forms are available for issuance until the deadline of **March 6, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat, Room 621, 6th Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification/ Eligibility Statements for both the Producer and Contractor shall be on **March 13, 2002.**

Pre-qualified parties shall be issued Terms of Reference, location Plans and Tender Documents on **April 1-3, 2002** for a non-refundable fee of P3,500.00.

Submission of the A&E Design for the Building, Design for the production of the Light and Sound Museum and Bid Proposal for the project shall be at **10:00 AM** on **May 2, 2002.** Opening of bid proposal will follow at **2:00 PM** at the PTA Training Room, #513, 5th Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The PTA shall issue the Notice to Proceed to the winning bidder, upon issuance by the Department of Finance of a notice for the Department of Tourism to enter into and take possession of the aforementioned property and conveyance by the President of the Republic of the Philippines of said property to the DOT.

(Sgd.) **ADEL L. ORIONDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tels. 927-1517/18, 426-4332, 928-1215, 925-5324, 920-2241/43

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) of the SPECIAL PRIVATE LAND TIMBER LICENSE (SPLTL)** No. 5 Project of the Green Circle Properties and Resources Corporation to be located in Brgy. Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon and Brgy. Umiray, Dingalan, Aurora.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed SPLTL No. 5 Project to attend a Public Hearing on **March 22, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Hall, Dingalan, Aurora.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region IVA) on or before **March 22, 2002.**

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Ms. Jannish J. Sajol or Ms. Ma. Janusette C. Uy at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 41.

(PDI - Feb. 20 & 27, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CARINA D. CAPUYAN

The public is hereby notified that MS. CARINA D. CAPUYAN, whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with PETPlans, Inc.

Any transaction with Ms. Carina D. Capuyan will not be honored by the company.

PETPlans Centre, 114 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel.: 892-5546 Fax no. 893-5339
www.petplans.com

'BEAUX ARTS' A Thesis Exhibit
Institute of Fine Arts and Design
Philippines Women's University
Taft Avenue, Manila
February 26 to March 1, 2002
at the 3rd Floor
Tower 2 Lobby, Enterprise Center
Ayala corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

OBITUARIES

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph I give you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph I breathe forth my spirit to you."

AMADA REVILLA DISONGLO

Joined her Creator and Savior on February 25, 2002
at the age of 85,
after having lived a full and virtuous life.

She and her departed husband **Peregrino Z. Disonglo, Sr.**, are now reunited in heavenly bliss.

They will be missed by their loving children **Nina** & **Gilbert Almendral**, and **Jun** & **Gene Disonglo**; grandchildren **Bembet** & **Michelle**, **Pauline**, **Angela** & **Anthony**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends. We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Her remains lie in state at the San Isidro Labrador Parish, Mortuary, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at Roman Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Ambassador ROY V. SEÑERES
and the officials and employees of the
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
condole deeply with the Family of

HON. ALBERTO S. VELOSO

Former NLRC Chairman and Member of the House of Representatives

who passed away peacefully in
the Grace of our Lord
on February 24, 2002.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Parents want to map daughter's career

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I AM an avid reader of your column. My husband and I are entrepreneurs with a thriving garments business. We want to seek your advice not about our business but about our 18-year-old daughter. You see, we want to give our children the best possible future. We want our daughter to be a doctor someday, so she is currently enrolled in BS Biology for her pre-med course at the State University. As a doctor, she will have a profession that will guarantee her a good life. At the same time, when we grow old, we have someone who will care for us.

Our problem is our daughter dreams instead of going into broadcast journalism. Her role model is Senator Loren Legarda. She likes dealing with people and she has the talent to do well. However, we advised her that being a broadcast journalist is a short-term profession. As you grow older there are less opportunities for you.

Recently, we found out that she has a boyfriend. Once again we told her in rather strong terms to concentrate on her studies and break up with her boyfriend. She did not take our words well. Please advise us what to do.

Confused Mom

You and your husband are typical parents who desire nothing but the best for your children. However, we have to be careful because the best in our perspective may not have the same definition for our children. Was it Khalil Gibran who said that though our children come from us, they don't belong to us? Every human being is blessed by God with free will. It is the privilege to decide in freedom, to discover for oneself the profession or calling one wants to pursue in life.

So this dilemma of yours is a beautiful thing. It is an opportunity to discuss seriously and calmly and without coercion the situation together as a family.

Unlived lives

We committed a similar mistake in the past with our eldest daughter. We wanted her to be a certified public accountant. We had role models in both my family and my husband's family. My husband's father was an auditor. So, dutifully she pursued her accountancy course. On her third year, we could see that she was very distressed and unhappy. One evening, she mustered the courage to tell us that her aptitude and skills are not aligned with accountancy. She was the creative type, having been editor of her high school newspaper. We allowed her the freedom to shift and she chose to go to applied management. She has never been happier.

We have to take caution that we don't try to force on our children our unlived lives. Let us say I have always wanted to be a lawyer but my studies were discontinued because of marriage. It is not right for me now to insist that one of my sons take up law. This is the age of human capital. In the knowledge age, we see an expansion and explosion of new professions, some we have never heard of before. But unlike us, who were not born into computers, our children today, have more access to information and can make more enlightened choices about their future. Furthermore, our children can work anywhere they please. This is one positive aspect of globalization.

You mentioned the reason behind your desire for your daughter to pursue medicine is so she can "enjoy a good life." I agree that being a doctor is a noble profession. It is an act of mercy as doctors help heal the sick. But if you talk of quality of life, this may not necessarily be the case with doctors or of any other professional. It is a purposive choice of lifestyle that determines quality of life. I know some doctors who overwork and overeat, who have very little personal time to spend with their families. A broadcast journalist may even have more quality of life.

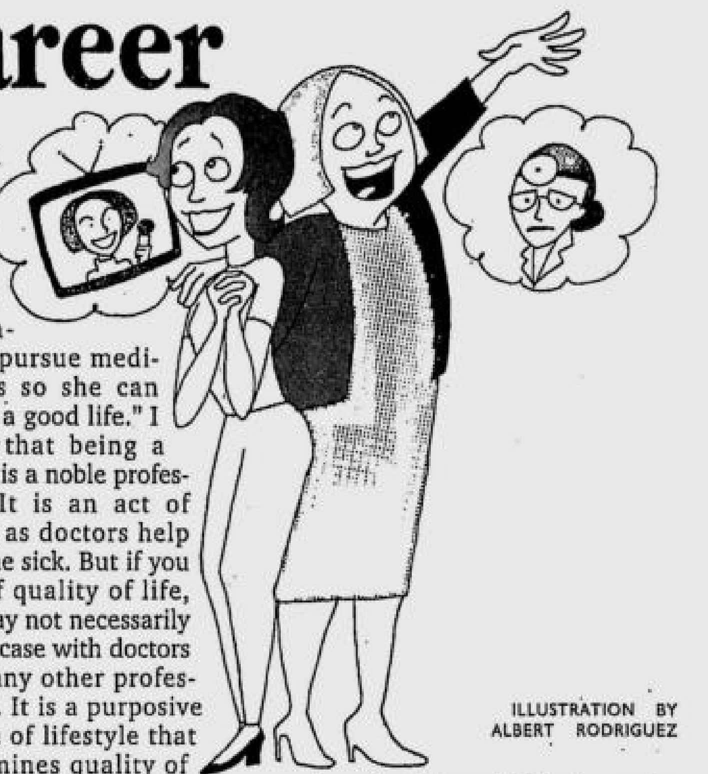


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Good life

If by good life, do you mean doctors are wealthier? Think again, a decade ago, doctors made a lot of money. But these days, the logic of health care in our country is being transformed.

The past years I have worked as strategy planning consultant to many health care companies and doctor associations. Gone were the days when the doctor can charge exorbitant rates. Today, his fees are also held in check by the market and what patients are willing to pay. Or if they service a managed health care facility, the rates that the health care company will pay.

Talk to a young doctor who is starting to grow his/her practice. If he is not able to get into a prestigious hospital, he has to go through years of struggling to make a living. Now, if the doctor truly thinks that service in this profession is his life passion, then one definitely can find fulfillment even through difficult times.

If your daughter wants to pursue broadcast journalism, she can spend many years in the profession. Look at how many of the broadcast journalists today are in their 40s. In fact, they may even have more insight and wisdom and therefore are better appreciated by their viewers. Then, the exposure as a journalist may lead her to other opportunities. Take my case, my original course was journalism. Later, I took an interest in business and enterprise development. My initial profession is a big boost in enhancing my environmental and personal sensitivity.

On the personal affairs of adult children, better to tactfully inquire and suggest rather than strongly oppose. Reflect back on your own experience as teenagers. The more parents oppose, the stronger the desire to rebel and hide the relationship. So in our home, we welcome the special friends of my children. We get to know them better. But we always remind them to always think of consequences and the dignity of the human person.

God bless you. May He give you the grace to make the right decision as a family.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-

Ten ways to fight burnout

By Ernie O. Cecilia

DO you feel overworked, exhausted, lazy or simply tired? Do you experience irritation, resentment, sarcasm, cynicism or alienation in your work? Are you close to losing your self-esteem or sense of achievement, or do you simply not feel like working anymore?

These are all symptoms of burnout in varying degrees. The faster you realize that you are getting burned out, the better you can cope with this malady that hits even the best of us. It spares no one in the workplace—from the janitor to the CEO.

If you want to have a longer and more productive career and life, follow these few practical tips on how to arrest burnout:

1. Plan your work and work your plan. Avoid stress caused by deadlines and unfinished tasks. Prepare a daily, weekly and monthly "To Do" list and prioritize your work. Don't leave anything to chance. Don't be at the mercy of drop-in visitors or walk-in projects.

When you have a plan, you lessen uncertainties. When you make your work more predictable (not monotonous), you can better control your time and your life.

2. Manage expectations. Set reasonable goals for yourself. Avoid reaching for the moon or doing too much too soon. Take things in stride but keep pushing for improvements progressively. Don't be too harsh on yourself if you fail to achieve a very ambitious goal on the first try. Give yourself another chance. If your boss expects too much, negotiate for challenging but achievable goals.

Learn to negotiate, reason out, and not just take "whatever life has to give." Don't put yourself in a no-win situation. Don't commit anything that you know you can't deliver.

3. Celebrate your achievements. Know when to reward yourself. Motivate yourself by celebrating little victories. This enhances your self-esteem and keeps you going for greater accomplishments. You, too, will surely appreciate praises, compliments and rewards. However, avoid lionizing or patronizing yourself.

4. Expand your responsibilities. Learn new skills, reengineer yourself, help others in their work; expand your sphere of influence, and ensure your security of employment. When you have many abilities and contributions to the organization, you not only feel secure that you will always have a job, but you can even get promoted and rewarded in due time.

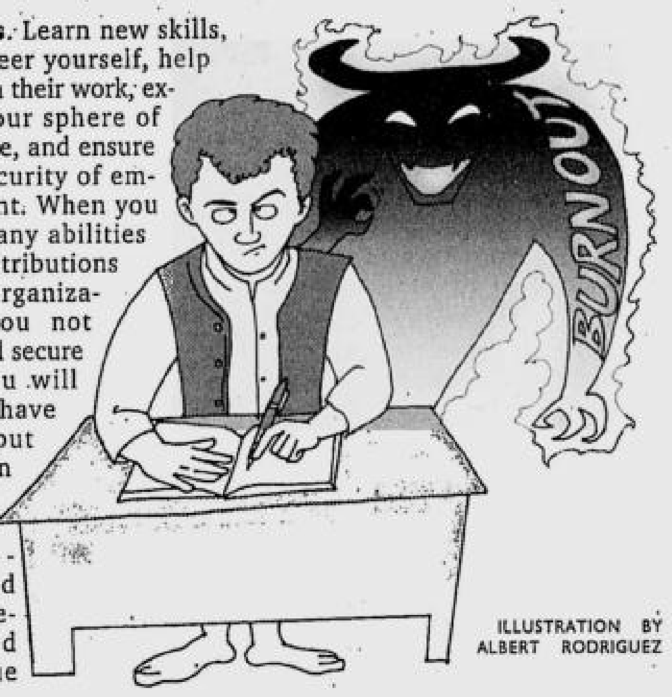


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The workplace demands a number of skills needed to do a variety of jobs over time. If you have the skills, you'll likely have better career chances. If you don't, you could get burned out just worrying when you could get the pink slip.

5. Take a vacation. When tired working without letup, after a major project that stretched you physically and mentally, or when the pressure at work is too much, take a vacation. Plan your vacation so that you can really enjoy your time away from work. Like an overused battery, you can feel recharged after a good, enjoyable vacation.

While on vacation, forget about the job. Take time to refresh and recharge yourself. When you go back to work, work like crazy until your next vacation.

6. Have a hobby or recreation. Engage in something that can give you fun and use your capabilities outside of your work. Find a hobby that uses but regenerates your mental and physical abilities. Avoid recreation that will put more mental, physical or financial pressures on you. The idea is to find an inexpensive recreation that will keep you busy and enthusiastic.

7. Exercise regularly. Find time for exercise. Some employees take a walk or go to the gym at lunch break, and just take a sandwich. This is a healthy and inexpensive alternative to having a hearty smorgasbord lunch that's heavy on the tummy and the pocket.

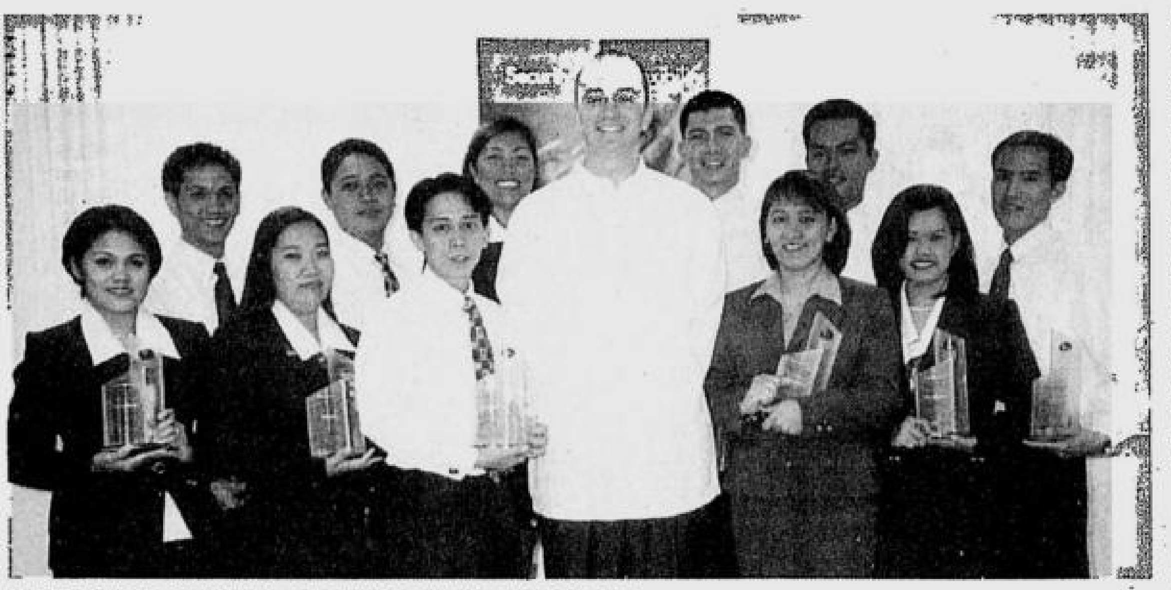
Walk, don't use the elevator, whenever you can. Stretch, take breathing exercises, and do simple routines. Join the company's sports activities that are suitable for your age and physical condition.

8. Take plenty of rest. The human body needs rest—plenty of it. Take six to eight hours of sleep daily at night, at home—not while working in your cubicle or while in a meeting. When you sleep well, your mind and body are better prepared for the rigors of the next day. On the contrary, you're more prone to stress, errors, and irritation when you don't have enough rest.

9. Take a proper diet. You are what you eat, so have a balanced diet always. Early in life, avoid things sweet, oily, and salty. Take a low-cholesterol diet and eat small quantities of food only. Eat to live—don't live to eat.

10. Attend to personal needs. You lessen the chances of burnout when you look good and feel good about yourself. As needed, have regular visits to your favorite beauty parlor, dentist, physician, masseuse, and other personal care experts. Get a facial treatment, braces, regular medical check-ups, massage, etc.

Don't take burnout lightly. It has cost many people, young and old, their jobs careers and lives. "The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives," observed Albert Schweitzer.



BERKLEY HONORS TOP EMPLOYEES FOR 2001

Berkley International Philippines, Inc. (BIP) recently honored its outstanding employees for 2001. The awardees were chosen from among almost 700 employees of Berkley International Plans, Berkley International Life and Family First, Inc. (FFI) after rigid deliberations by management. The outstanding employees were cited for their exemplary work attitude and behavior, consistent productivity and results and excellent leadership quality. They are shown proudly holding their trophies and flanking FFI general manager Robb S. Paulsen: (counter-clockwise from front row) Customer Service Person of the Year Tessa Arellano, Promo Officer of the Year Ena Yorro, Supervisor of the Year Paul Vasquez, Technical Support Manager of the Year Jacqueline Bañares, Telemarketing Officer of the Year Vivian Yapchiongco, Technical Support Star of the Year Ruel Masil, Sales Consultant of the Year Benedict Cortez, Manager of the Year Stephen Go, Junior Manager of the Year Guia Frialde, Service Star of the Year Randy Ponsaran and Support Star of the Year Ramir Recinto.

Setting priorities is an art

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

LET'S talk about the leadership competency of setting priorities. My own definition of priority is that which you are doing right now. Otherwise, if that is not so important to you, you would not spend precious time, energy and other resources doing it. It might be important or menial. It might be urgent or unhurried. It might be life saving or mean nothing. It might produce big results or no concrete results at all. It might be a significant decision and step towards your vision and mission or just something to while away your time. *Basta* if you are doing it now, it is your priority.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines priority as a preferential rating; esp. one that allocates right to goods and services usually in limited supply.

Guggenheimer and Szulc write: "In today's business world, it is difficult to set priorities. Setting priorities in your professional life is important and may affect your personal life. In an organization, there is a composite of people that each has their own personal priorities converging with the organization's priorities. Thus, in an organizational context, conflict can arise because people have different agendas. The way the organization handles these personal agendas determines the success of the enterprise.

Art of setting priorities

"Setting priorities in an organization is an art. It is intangible. It involves thinking and, in many cases, instinct. Priorities are fluid. They can change (and probably will) from week to week and often from minute to minute. It is like building a house, but the bricks are moving, says James Fontana, vice president and corporate counsel of Want Government Services, Inc.

"Every organization will run into conflicting situations with government agencies, customers or competitors. Suppose you are part of a multibillion-dollar organization that has been ordered by the government to clean up a toxic waste site. You have, in your opinion, met the environmental standards for disposing of the hazardous materials. You believe you have properly cleaned up the site and that the government is being overzealous and unfair. However, the next day, your organization is sued for noncompliance. The goal of the organization is not to lose, because you are right, and to minimize the damage to the organization's reputation. If you lose, you may have to pay severe penalties or, worse, declare bankruptcy, not to mention the enormous amount spent to defend your position.

Alignment

"Even if you win, you have to ask yourself whether draining your organization's resources was worth it. The priority would be to prove the organization should be exonerated of all charges without destroying the organization in the process. The goal is not to win a battle at the expense of losing the war. Now it is clear that this goal will override all other goals. Depending on where an individual's priorities lie, the battle to establish them may become extremely personal. If personal values are closely aligned with an organization's values, then it is difficult to separate the line between personal and organization priorities. Organizational priorities may hit you personally. If they are different, there may be conflict as to which priority is met first."

At this moment, what are your organization's priorities? What are your personal priorities? What are the priorities of the other people in your organization, especially those whom you lead? Do they align with one another? Do they converge?

"Strategic priorities that are clearly linked to shared vision are instrumental in gaining commitment from the people in the organization. An individual or a team must be accountable for the priority so that achieving the priority becomes the driving force amidst the multitude of activities. You can measure or estimate whether you have achieved your priorities. These results will then enable you to determine what actions must be taken to achieve the vision."

Shared vision

The key idea here is that leaders must be able to set organizational priorities that take into consideration the long term vision, mission and values of the organization itself and the people in the organization. Leaders are the ones tasked to set priorities in an organization. It is, therefore, incumbent upon every leader to be competent in setting priorities. In setting priorities, the leader must abide by the shared vision, mission and values and be informed about the total environment. Given the limited resources available and the many effects of globalization, priority setting is not just a juggling act. It has become a science and an art.

Sticking to priorities is another challenge the leader must reckon with on a day-to-day basis.

Should you want to participate in this on-going workshop on Leadership, please e-mail us and tell us your own definition of a leader and what you think should be the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes of a leader.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Former Religion teacher nurtures organization's soul

By Cecile G. Garcia

THIS former Religion teacher at Assumption College is a management consultant. Thus, it is not surprising to find out that Lirio O. Mapa believes that "Consultants are the guardians of the spirit of the organization. Often, we overlook the spiritual aspect, meaning, values or what holds organization together. They must have a strong culture, which boils down to having a clear mission and values that are shared and lived. This entails that we ourselves are well-grounded in our own spirituality."

CAREER TALES

Mapa's vision is to be "a teacher of teachers, a trainor of trainors." She believes that one of the things that makes her life beautiful is being part of humanity, which makes it possible for us to help others. "My fulfillment lies in seeing people, who have worked with me and whom I have mentored, grow professionally and move on to better things. At heart, I'm an educator. As one, what excites me is seeing people grow and being able to contribute to their development and the progress of organizations."

Mapa is presently the vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. (CLCI), the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of products and services of Franklin Covey, a well-known management consultancy company in the U.S. She has been a management consultant for the past 16 years. Seasoned and dedicated, her specialization includes organization development (OD), management of change, total quality and corporate training.

Twist of fate

A summa cum laude graduate in Liberal Arts and Education at Assumption College, she was teaching in the College when she received an offer to work for the Department of Trade and Industry in 1981. She became supervising consultant for consumer education. Nine months later, Mapa moved to Phil. Phosphate Corp. (a DTI affiliate) to help in training and recruitment. She was HRD manager when the 1986 revolution took place and changes in government ensued. She then joined Procter & Gamble Philippines in 1986 and stayed for 10 years. She says of her stint there, "P&G shaped and formed me. I was sent everywhere to attend seminars and workshops."

It was in P&G where Mapa encountered Stephen Covey's Seven Habits for Highly Effective People. Mapa recounts that she was serving as OD manager and internal consultant for Procter & Gamble Phils. when she attended the Seven Habits training for the first time in Singapore.

The Seven Habits, she explains, was given to all P&G executives. In January 1989, Mapa, the sales director and the general manager went to Utah to train as facilitators. The following April, 60 P&G managers had already been trained on the Seven Habits and they, in turn, trained others. "Our goal was to train all P&G employees. We almost made it," says Mapa.

Natural shift

When she opted for an early retirement from the company in 1996, Mapa knew where she was going. "CLCI fitted my lifestyle." In 1997, it expanded, offering other products. By that time, the Stephen Covey Leadership Center had merged with Franklin Quest Co. (exponent of the Planner System and named after Benjamin Franklin), establishing a formidable alliance. Mapa was challenged.

"CLCI has been around since 1990," says Mapa. Originally part of the Ateneo de Manila University's Central Guidance Bureau, it became a separate entity in 1996 when it was incorporated. Mapa was one of the incorporators.

According to her, CLCI began offering Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People program in 1991. Mapa, incidentally, was the first Filipino to be accredited facilitator for the Seven Habits. On a trip to the Philippines in 1990, Covey himself accredited Mapa as a Seven Habits Master Facilitator.

Multinational and local corporations comprise most of CLCI's clients.

Challenges

Mapa identifies some of the problems usually brought to their attention. "A company may not be doing as well as they'd like. Maybe there's a lack of teamwork. They may be facing change. It can be a labor issue. It depends on who approaches you. If it's top-level management, maybe they want to build management leaders."

Mapa believes that change within an organization must begin at the top. This is why she makes it a point to work with individuals on the executive level. "You start with Human Resources. But sooner or later, you get to the top. It's the best way," she says. When you start at the top, says Mapa, implementation becomes easier.

Implementation, she adds, is one of the biggest challenges a consultant like herself must hurdle and try to overcome. "It requires dealing with the resistance to change. It also requires hard work, especially on the part of the client."

Resistance to change, says Mapa, is one of the difficulties she often encounters in consultancy. "Generally, people can't get rid of their own paradigms. But most are open to change and can still be influenced, even the elderly. It depends on how you handle them. It's important to see them as being able to change."

Qualities

This is why above all, affirms Mapa, a good management consultant should be able to elicit the trust of the client. "He needs to be competent and to have a good track record. This should be backed up by actual experience, which spells credibility. He must have character and the ability to listen and to understand. He should be able to diagnose and to propose the appropriate solution."

Usually, says Mapa, clients know whether you're sincere or not. "They see through you. You must have a deep and sincere desire to help and serve them." At the same time, a management consultant should be humble enough to recognize and accept his limitations. Thus, Mapa believes that the heart of management consultancy is the consultant himself, the guardian of the organizational soul.

(Lirio Mapa shares her insights on "Surviving Workplace Change" at the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on March 19, 2002 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Equitable PCIB Tower 1 Auditorium on Makati Ave., Makati City. Call tel. nos. 897-8808 local 554 or 414-0186 for more information.)

PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MAPA wants to be a teacher of teachers.

What is the best strategy for handling an interview?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've had a few weak spots in my career that I'm not exactly proud of and these keep coming up in job interviews. Is there a way to guide an interview around the difficult parts of your past?

Minefield

Speaking of job interviews, Darryl Owens probably needs to go out on more because as a thief, he's just not cutting it. He recently walked into a Shaker Heights, OH bank to rob it. Oh, sure, he got the money and got out just fine. The problems came later that afternoon when he went back into the same bank to cash a $45 money order with the money he'd just stolen. Police promptly arrested him.

Like Mr. Owens, many of us make the mistake of repeatedly going back to the scene of OUR previous crimes in job interviews. I'm not suggesting that you lie, but I am saying that when a difficult topic is being raised, you don't need to dwell on it.

Below are some simple approaches to help you put your best foot forward, even when you're on the verge of being busted. For more, check out "Games Companies Play" by Dr. Pierre Mornell (10 Speed, 2000).

- Make a statement. Dr. Mornell gives an example of an applicant being asked in an interview, "When did you last get angry at work?" It's important not to hem and haw or make a big deal about the question. He suggests a specific example, like; "The last time I got angry at work was with my boss during the last round of budgeting."
- Support your statement. The next step is to explain the event with a few details. To continue with the example above, "His numbers, I felt, were unrealistic, and I told him so." Support without defending, and leave the soapbox back at your desk.
- Summarize. Shorter always beats longer (but remember, it's okay to be longer-winded when you're talking about your positive qualities). Briefly summarize what the result of your disagreement was. If you are coming up blank, don't forget the classic, "We agreed to disagree."
- Shut up. This is the really important part. Most of us abhor silence in a job interview, so we fill up the conversation with all sorts of incriminating information. Resist the tendency to beat the horse dead and shut up. Actually the horse is not the only thing you'll be beating; you're also beating any chance that you might have to get the job.
- How you say it matters. Tone of voice can often carry as much weight as our words. So learn to keep it crisp and professional and leave the theater for, well, the theater. Any sign of anger toward your former employer won't increase your chances of getting this job.

You probably will have to return occasionally to the scene of your past career crimes. But you don't have to dwell on them. As for me personally, I'll only go back to a past failure as a tourist. I don't want to live there.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How do you deal with embarrassing parts of your past when looking for a job?

—I lie, 12.3 percent

—There is nothing embarrassing in my past, 36.9 percent

—I spin it so it doesn't sound so bad, 50.6 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with an embarrassing past event in a job interview comes from Marty F. in Fitchburg, WI. "During a job interview with a small group of people, the lead person looked at my resume and said, 'So you're not working now...' A hush of discomfort filled the room. I replied, 'Oh, I'm working today!' Everyone chuckled, the mood lifted and we were able to get back to more meaningful discussion. Sometimes a little humor can move the conversation from past difficulties toward potential possibilities."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'Mothering' is good management style

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

NO ONE listens to us quite like a mother does. I know that for sure. When I was in college, my mother used to wait for us to come home from school with a pot of hot tea and a willing ear. She could sit at the table for a good two hours, waiting for my brothers and I to trickle in with our stories. She listened to play-by-play accounts of football mishaps, then shifted to rollicking recounts of classroom antics, and with the arrival of still another of my brothers, she could stir up some sympathy as heartache over a project (or a girlfriend) was poured out before her.

I don't know that I listen as well as my mother does. What I do know is that my daughter saves up stories for me (the funniest and the lowest part of the day). And that many of my officemates quickly find their way to the visitor's chair in my cubicle when they want to make sense of a boardroom mishaps, share rollicking backroom antics, and quite often, spill out heartaches over projects gone awry. I don't have my mother's pot of tea, but I do have the gut feel that a mother's listening ear is as effective at home as it is in the workplace.

Feminine strengths

I staunchly hold on to the conviction that as women in the workplace, we must bring the strength of our feminine side to work. I don't buy the notion that to break the glass ceiling we have to be more of a man, I think we have to be more woman. Bring our hearts and minds to our work.

Active listening is listening with both heart and mind—we are receptive, understanding, and open, yet firm and thorough in our response. Bring your mothering skills to fore in the workplace, instead of trying to be what you are not, try to harness the strength of your place. Remind yourself, too, that these skills you have to continue to use at home. Sad to say, a number of us get too steeped in the office culture that we forget how to listen. We choose instead to deal with our children in the one-way boardroom manner, or to pin them down to "management objectives" instead of letting them explore the wonderful bond you have as mother and child. You've got to let your maternal instincts reign.

Let me break down what we do so intuitively for our children, and see how we can apply it to the office.

- Stop. When a child approaches you with something to share, stop what you are doing and pay attention. In the same manner, when a colleague approaches you, stop what you are doing, and listen. Paying attention, even briefly, lets children and your officemates know that you are listening and that they are important.

Eye contact

- Look. With your children, you must make eye contact by getting down on their level and facing them directly. Do the same in the workplace, establish eye contact with your employees or officemates, take the conversation at their level. If you are in authority, try to shed some of the trappings of power, get up from behind your desk and invite them to sit and talk. A pleasant facial expression will encourage them to share their feelings and concerns. Look for nonverbal cues that can help you respond accurately to what they are trying to say. Facial expressions and body language provide information beyond the words you hear.
- Listen. Just as you would with your children, focus your attention on what they are saying by listening to their words and their tone. Sometimes, like our young children, our employees and officemates need help in labeling their feelings or describing a situation. Listen carefully to what they actually say as well as what they may be trying to say.

Mothering may yet be your best management training ground. Let's come together in this column to share our working mom insights. We will publish your tales, tricks, and victories. Please email me at *workingmom@pinoycentral.com.*

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. Get more working mom tips in the March issue of MWM with Eula Valdez and Jean Garcia on the cover.)

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

PARTNERS FOR THE PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES 2002

People at Work Live! Seminar Series once again brings high value, affordable learning opportunities for working people starting this March with its "Change Management Series." On March 18, Ancilla president Tita Datu Puangco focuses on "Managing Work-Related Stress." On March 19, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. vice president Lirio Mapa discusses "Surviving Workplace Change." On March 20, S&G International Consulting, Inc., managing principal Mark Mackenzie talks about "Leading Organizational Change." In photo are PaW editor Regina Reyes (extreme left), Lirio Mapa (seventh from left), Mark Mackenzie (next to Mapa), Optimus president Babst Reyes (third from right), PDI Marketing Services Division Head Donald Lim (second from right, second row), PDI SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso (extreme right).

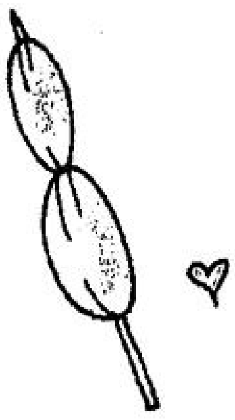
People at Work! Live Seminar Series (March event) is sponsored by companies who care for people at work: Inquirer's Jobmarket, Equitable PCI Bank, ABS-CBN Publishing/Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., S&G International Consulting, Inc., Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., Adobo Interactive and Single Search Philippines. This is an event organized by Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc. For inquiries, call 8978808 loc. 554 or 4140186.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph or log on to http://you.inq7.net

LIFESTYLE

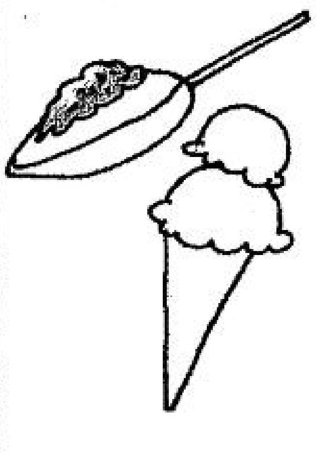
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** ◎ *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

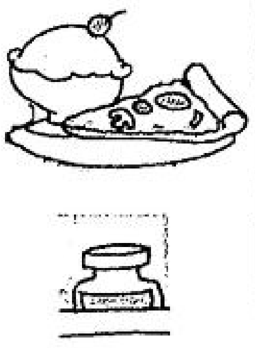
to be young • to be you • to be young • to be young • to be you • To be you!



FOOD TRIP

Have your fill of the food scene as 2bU! surveys the best instant meals, the hippest street foods, the choicest tacos and the weirdest combo meals, while giving you an idea on how it is to take culinary lessons from the master chefs and cautioning you on obsessive dieting and a number of food fallacies. It's guaranteed to be a delicious read. Bon appetit!





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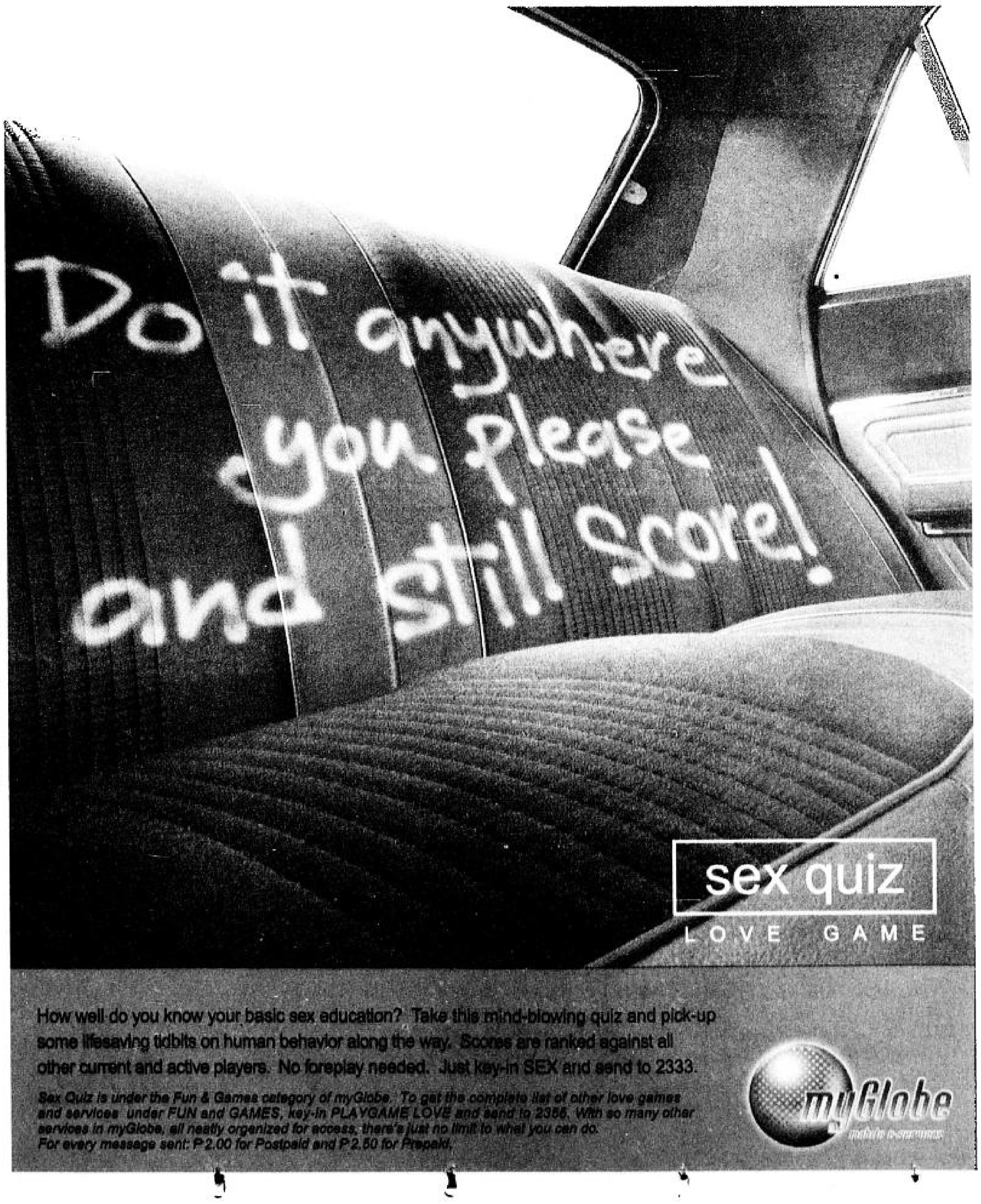


How well do you know your basic sex education? Take this mind-blowing quiz and pick-up some lifesaving tidbits on human behavior along the way. Scores are ranked against all other current and active players. No foreplay needed. Just key-in SEX and send to 2333.

*Sex Quiz is under the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. To get the complete list of other love games and services under FUN and GAMES, key-in PLAYGAME LOVE and send to 2366. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.
For every message sent: P2.00 for Postpaid and P2.50 for Prepaid.*

Street-smart eater avoids unpleasant consequences

By Milan Rustia
2bU! Correspondent

EATING is my favorite hobby. But I usually indulge myself not at fancy restaurants but out in the streets where everything is cooked and served in a snap at a very low price. Getting my food and drinks in the street occasionally has some unpleasant consequences—from bouts of diarrhea or constipation to episodes of a distended tummy.

> Common sense is all that's needed to fully enjoy street food, without worrying about getting sick

Eating on the streets can be hazardous to your health. Often, the satisfaction outweighs the risks, but sometimes the reverse can be true. Since it's a hobby I find impossible to break, I decided to get the lowdown on some of my favorite street culinary delights.

Innards

"*Adidas, helmet, IUD, walkman, isaw, betamax*" are not items found in a garage sale but edible portions of chicken and pig. The *IUD* (chicken intestine) and the *isaw* (pig's small intestine) are my top favorites, with *adidas* (chicken feet) and *walkman* (pig ears) coming in second. I'm not so crazy about the *betamax* (chicken blood) and broiled pork liver.

These delectable and exotic delights resulting from Pinoy ingenuity will probably never land on the menus of high-end dining places. Many people also steer clear of them for fear of contracting gastrointestinal ailments and because they are relatively high in fat. But these delicacies are not without essential nutrients. The Food and Nutrition Research Institute, in the book "The Philippine Food Composition Tables," says these items contain fat-soluble Vitamin A found only in meat products. They are also rich sources of protein, important in the building and repair of muscles.

Palatability: 4 spoons

Calories: 5 spoons (They have a high calorie content, particularly the *isaw*, which has around 305 kcal per 100 g edible portion, e.p.)

Nutritive Value: 2 spoons (Vitamin A and Protein)

Fish balls and 'kikiam'

Fish balls, squid balls, shrimp balls and *kikiam* are usually skewered and served in fours and fives, and dipped in a nutty, sweet-spicy sauce. They are perfect after-class or after-work delights. Fish balls have 266 kcal per 100 g e.p. (a slice of pizza has the same value). *Kikiam*, on the other hand, has only 129 kcal. Nutrients like calcium, iron, Vitamin A, thiamin, riboflavin and niacin are found in trace amounts.

Palatability: 5 spoons

Calorie: 4 spoons (Calorie content is relatively high.)

Nutritive Value: 1 spoon (small amounts of Vitamin A in *kikiam*)

Banana-rama

Banana-cue, *turon* and banana fritter a.k.a. *maruya* are some *meriendas* made from *saging na saba*. Don't harbor the illusion, though, that they are low in calories as they do not contain meat. Take note that all of them are served sweetened and fried.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Frying increases the level of cholesterol. Among the three, the banana-cue would be the wisest choice as it contains less than 200 kcal per 100 g e.p. as compared to the other two, each of which has around 250-300 kcal.

Palatability: 3 spoons

Calories: 2 spoons (high)

Nutritive Value: 4 spoons (They are rich in Vitamin A.)

Eggs-plore

Egg is never really cholesterol- or fat-free, so *balut*, *penoy* and *itlog ng pugo* have to be taken in moderation. But *balut* is a rich source of Vitamin A—369 mg per 100 g e.p. It also contains around 116 mg of calcium per 100 g e.p., which is about a quarter of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for this nutrient. Eggs also have traces of essential minerals like calcium and iron.

Palatability: 3 spoons

Calories: 4 spoons (Very high calorie content)

Nutritive Value: 4 spoons

'Sorbetes'

It may not taste as delicate as the factory-produced ice cream, but it is much cheaper and easier to get as it practically comes to your doorstep.

Palatability: 3 spoons

Calories: 3 spoons (every 100 g e.p. contain 157 kcal)

Nutritive Value: (Good source of calcium like other dairy products.)

'Sago't gulaman'

Palatability: 3 spoons (A refreshing drink made of Ceylon moss in light syrup.)

Calories: 2 spoons (around 56 kcal/glass)

Nutritive Value: 1 spoon (almost no significant nutrient needed by the body)

Green mangoes

Palatability: 4 spoons (The sour taste lightens up a heavy meal.)

Calories: 1 spoon (Relatively low calorie content)

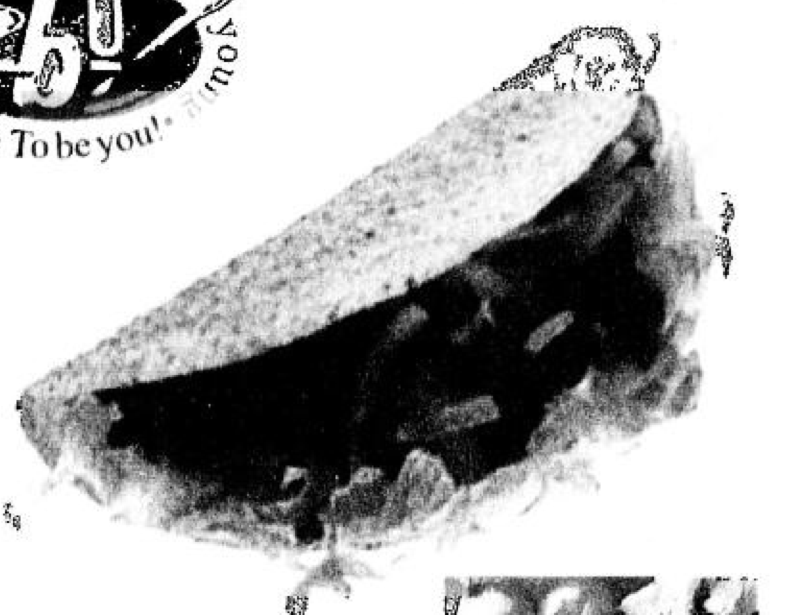
Nutritive Value: 5 spoons (Green mangoes are high in Vitamin C; the *bagoong alamang* that goes with it contains about 699 mg of calcium per 100 g e.p.)

Tips for smart eater

Common sense is all that's needed to fully enjoy street food, without worrying about getting sick. Street food can be safe, clean and sanitary. Microorganisms that contaminate food are practically everywhere, but they can only prosper in the right environment. Heat is often enough to check them.

Before you bite into an *isaw*, for instance, make sure it's cooked well or reheated. Raw food is more at risk of contamination regardless of source. It also does not require a highly sensitive nose or eagle eyes to spot spoilage. The food's color, texture and overall appearance will give a clue to its condition. Don't be paranoid about street food, but don't be careless either if you want to really enjoy it.

E-mail the author at milan98r @lycos.com .



2bu! puts on the sombrero and taps the country's south-of-the-border markets in search of the best tacos

Going loco over tacos

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

THOUGH a variety of Mexican sandwiches—burritos, enchiladas, fajitas, quesadillas, among others—have become popular, none of them can ever replace the one that started it all: tacos. They were the only sandwiches we ate with patience, casting aside our table manners.

As tacos now have soft-shell alternatives, with chicken and vegetable substitutes, I have chosen to stick with the classic—crusty tacos with ground beef. I have to admit though that after eating nothing but tacos for the last few days, just the thought of having to eat any more was enough to make me nauseous. And for once, I became grateful that rice was the staple food of our country.

Pancake House

Best tacos in town--P49

Ah, tacos that righteously deserve the title. Tammy David and I were conversing one day on how Pancake House should just change its name to Taco House since its tacos have been literally selling like hotcakes ever since we could remember. I remember years ago when my family used to have our Sunday lunches here. While most of us helped ourselves to their main courses, my mom would order only tacos every single time. But she would eat a good three to four in one sitting, and that never failed to amaze me, as my mom eats like a mouse. But after taking just one bite, I finally understood why. The white taco shells, hoisted on their famous triangular cardboard slits, are toasted to perfection, overflowing with cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and onions; and the ground beef—peppery though not quite spicy, lathered with Pancake House's specialty tomato sauce—was perfect. Though too much Mexican food has been known to instigate a headache, Pancake Houses' tacos are an exception. I immediately order another one.

Rating: 5

Nacho-Fast

Crisp tacos--P43

I went to Rockwell at 10:15 a.m. for one reason: Nach-o Fast Tacos. I had to make do with a take-out order since one of my brothers needed the car. Unfortunately, during my five-minute ride home, my taco apparently had quite a jolting adventure of its own, even while sitting placidly on my lap. I couldn't eat it in the car because the food was only in a plastic bag and everything would spill if I untied it. I immediately laid it on the table when I got home and to my dismay, its shell had already cracked in two, and everything else had become a soggy mess. I had to settle for the safe, boring way of eating it with a spoon. This taco had way too much cheese and really, really little salsa and lettuce. In fact it was like a tablespoon of salsa and lettuce over a large heaping of really cold cheese. Cold, probably because I was only the second customer of the day and they had just gotten it out of the refrigerator, but still, it created an uneven fusion of warm and cold in my mouth, which took away appetizing points. I really liked the taco shells though—crisp with just the right amount of saltiness; they tasted just like the baked Tostitos chips I would always buy bags of in the US. Theirs were clearly the best taco shells.

Rating: 3

Mexicali

Corn tacos--P59

My face lit up when I sunk my teeth into Mexicali's Corn Taco and realized that they had an added ingredient of sour cream. Though their taco shells were your regular corn shells, they had distinctively even proportions of cheese, tomatoes, salsa, lettuce and ground beef. I'd have to say that theirs are the tacos that have the most authentic Mexican taste—what with their chili con carne-type ground beef. It worked for me, but it might confuse people who don't like beans very much. I am also proud to announce that theirs were also some of the most sturdy taco shells I have ever encountered—not once did they crack and exhibit traces of sogginess, even as I took my time eating and constantly settled it down on my plate from time to time.

Rating: 4

Miggy's

Super tacos--P43

I stopped by the Katipunan branch on my way home from school and had to order take-out once again since I was dying from a splitting headache. Again, I was delighted by their addition of sour cream, and their even proportions of tomatoes, lettuce and onions. I found their version of ground beef to taste like that of the Jamaican Beef Pie's, amiable with unexpected dashes of exotic spice. I appreciated how each taco order was individually wrapped in foil; it made for the most convenient eating experience—no messy hands, no cracked shells and no flying lettuce and cheese. Though I thought the cheese to be a bit too strong for the entire combo, I have to admit that the tacos made me feel delusional about even having a headache in the first place.

Rating: 3.5

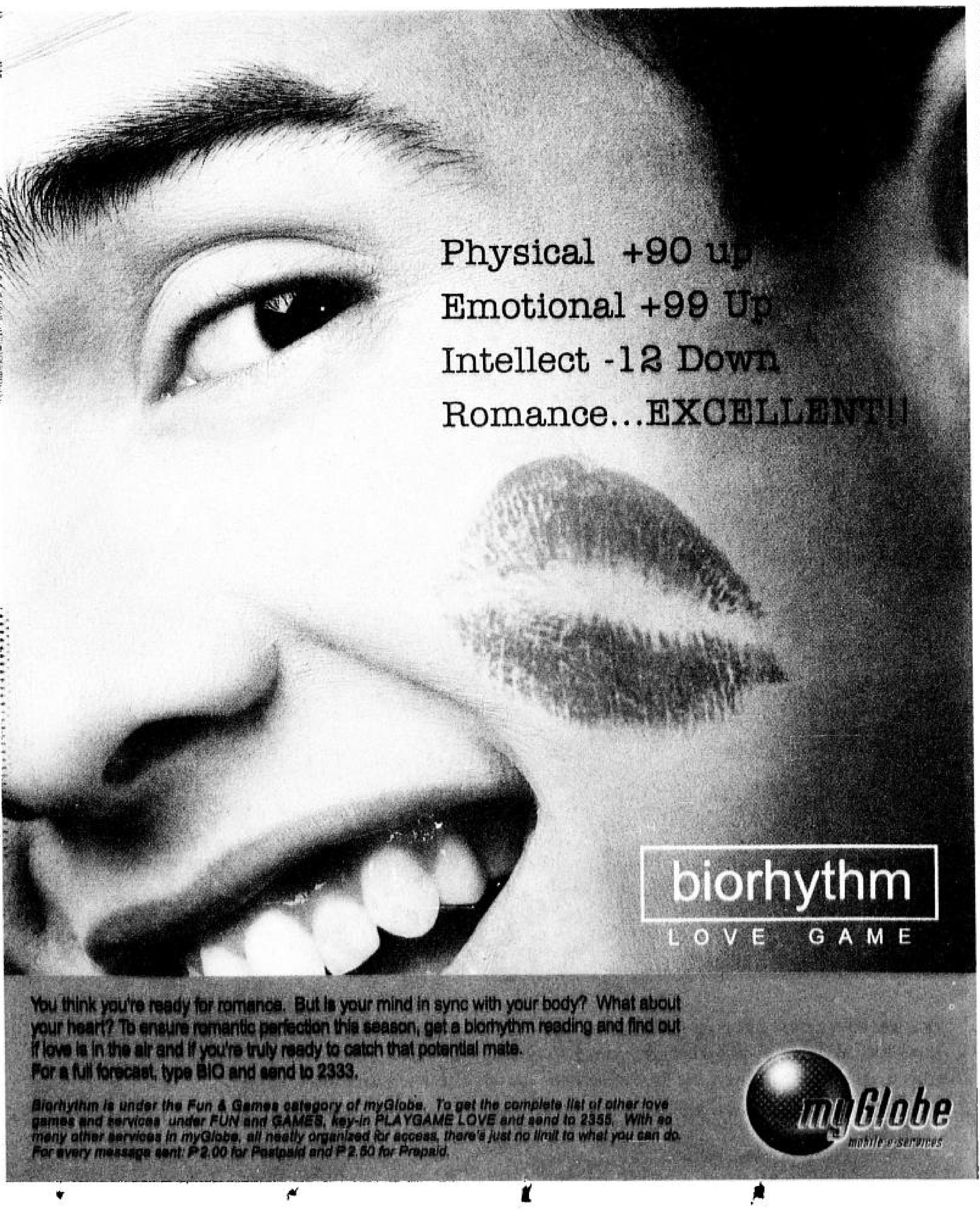
Tia Maria's

Tacos--two for P110

Tia Maria's had tacos that could only be served in pairs. Each order had a handful of nachos on the side. My eyebrows shot up the moment the waitress placed our order on the table, and apparently my 7-year old sister had the exact same thoughts. "Why is the cheese like that?" she asked my mom, suspiciously eyeing the extremely stiff grated cheese that topped the tacos. (Think: those ubiquitous cheese gratings on top of *ensaymada*). But when we sunk our teeth into the tacos, we realized that looks, indeed, deceive, and the cheese was actually the standout in the formulated combo. There was a large serving of beef, which was assuring as we were getting our money's worth, and there were even proportions of everything, which made up for the semi-bland-tasting corn shells, which I didn't fancy too much.

Rating: 3.5

E-mail the author at: chloe_dominique@yahoo.com



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Rating instant meals

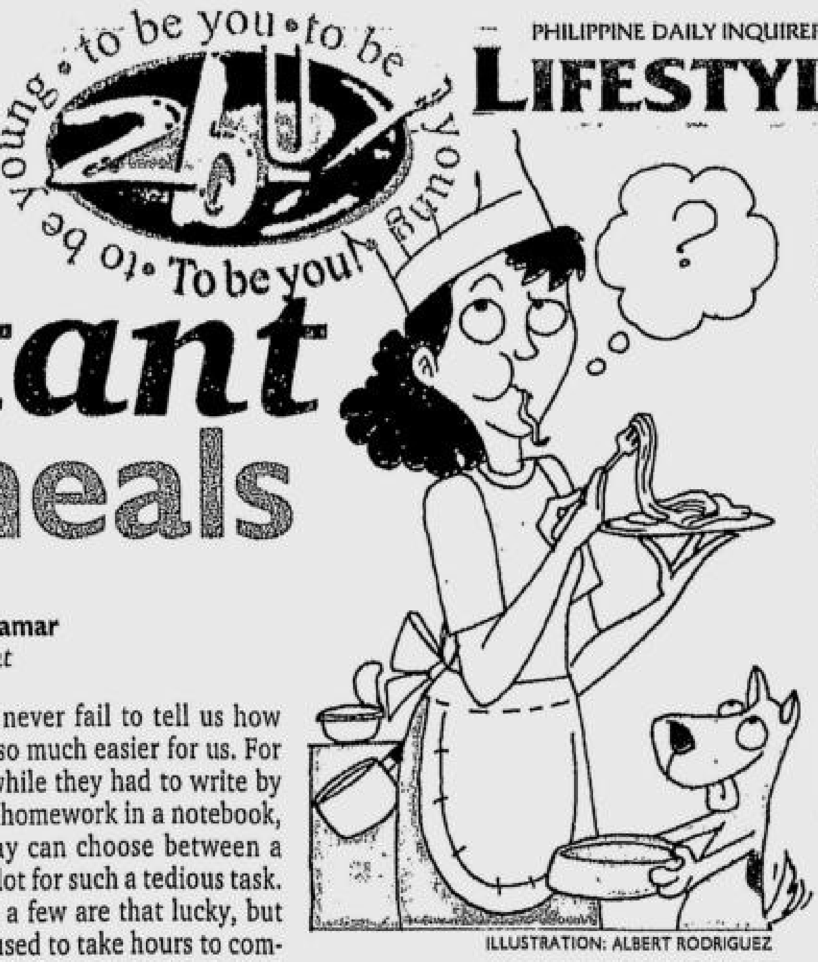
to be you • to be young • to be you • To be you! • to be young
2bU

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

Many busy bodies are turning to instant meals for quick relief of hunger pangs

OUR elders never fail to tell us how things are so much easier for us. For instance, while they had to write by hand their homework in a notebook, young people today can choose between a laptop or a palm pilot for such a tedious task. Ok, so maybe only a few are that lucky, but the point is, what used to take hours to complete can now be done in just a few minutes with the help of gadgets both big and small.

Even eating has not escaped the I-want-it-all-and-I-want-it-now phenomenon. A quick visit to the nearest fast-food joint is not the only option. Many busy bodies are turning to instant meals for quick relief of hunger pangs. Although instant meals may not be the most healthful of diets, they are filling, convenient and can be quite flavorful.

I've tasted and rated a few of them but I have to warn you that I don't cook, so you don't have to take my word for it.

Here's my ratings of some popular instant meals:

- Maggi Instant Pancit Canton Chili-Garlic. Definitely lacks seasoning. Some parts are dry and the dish looks rather sad without veggies or meat toppings, which you have to add yourself. More seasoning is definitely recommended.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄

- Quickchow Quickie Premium Cup Mami La Paz Batchoy with *chicharon* and garlic bits. Tastes like your regular good 'ol noodles. Wonder why they thought this could pass for La Paz Batchoy.

Rating: 🥄🥄

- Maggi Cup Sarap Chicken Arroz Caldo. We've got a winner. This one comes close to mom's homemade *arroz caldo*. It needs a bit more salt, though.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Quickchow Instant Pancit Palabok. I've never been a fan of *pancit palabok* but I've eaten it enough to know that, er, it's not suppose to be like this one. There is the usual lack of seasonings, but I'm not sure if adding more would have improved its taste. It also has a rather distinct smell, which tends to kill the appetite.

Rating : 🥄

- Maggi Cup Sarap Champorado. This is verryyy sweet, perfect for those with a sweet tooth. Being not too fond of chocolates, though, I had to gulp down several glasses of water. I must say it's a great reproduction of the homemade variety.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Knorr Crab and Corn Soup. A little too salty but very tasty and authentic, with a lot of crab in it.

Rating : 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Nissin Yakisoba Spicy Chicken. This is actually sweet and spicy, don't ask me why. Although the flavor is questionable, I'd still recommend this one because the combination of sweet and spicy actually works well. This is a great fix for unexpected hunger pangs.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

Youth Day Summit gathers thousands of students

THOUSANDS of teenagers will gather at the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) campus this summer for the Youth Day Summit 2002.

The Youth Day Summit is an annual, three-day experiential learning program that brings together teenagers aged 13-19, from public and private schools across the country. Founded by CCP professor Cornelio Buenaventura, it is a nature-based training program à la "Survivor" where students develop decision-making and leadership skills through fun, nature-based activities.

Buenaventura came up with the idea for the Youth Day Summit after reading a McCann youth study which found that "while most young people today enjoy going to school, they find more value in activities that involve practical application of theories."

So, with the help of human resource consultant Maria Veronica Ibañez (a classmate at the Asian Institute of Management) and Maria Loretta Ramirez, Buenaventura designed a program that incorporates little or no classroom instruction. The organizers have based the program on German educator Kurt Hahn's experience and values-centered approach to education. Specifically, the YDS will be based on a module called the Outward Bound Program. It will be a wilderness challenge program.

Teenagers will be immersed in an outdoor environment and will be asked to participate in activities where their own decision-making skills will be tested. The CCP campus will be transformed into a summer camp/wilderness environment for this purpose. There will also be group sessions and self-awareness tasks such as reflection, journal writing and self-disclosure.

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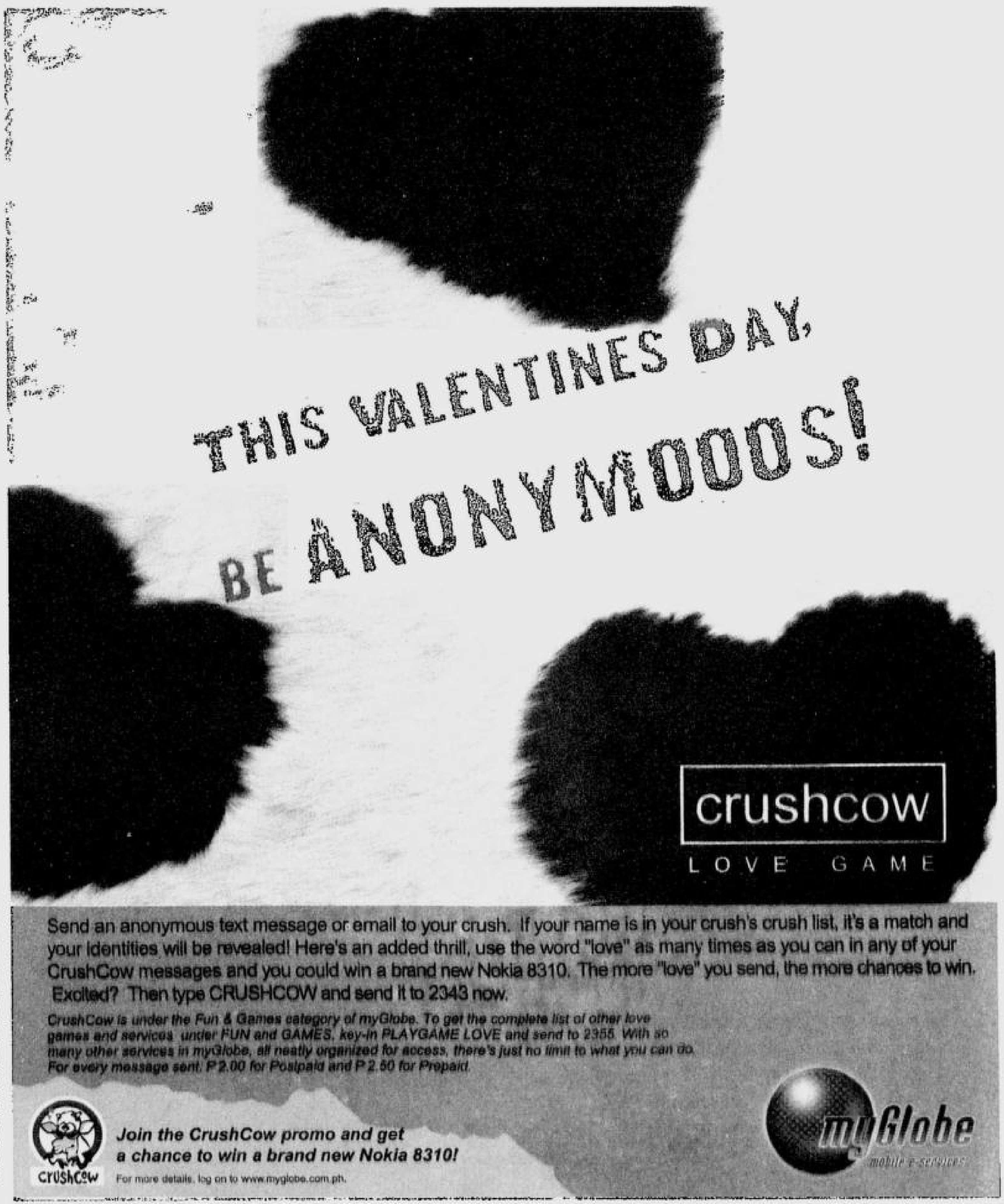
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Rating instant meals

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

OUR elders never fail to tell us how things are so much easier for us. For instance, while they had to write by hand their homework in a notebook, young people today can choose between a laptop or a palm pilot for such a tedious task. Ok, so maybe only a few are that lucky, but the point is, what used to take hours to complete can now be done in just a few minutes with the help of gadgets both big and small.

Even eating has not escaped the I-want-it-all-and-I-want-it-now phenomenon. A quick visit to the nearest fast-food joint is not the only option. Many busy bodies are turning to instant meals for quick relief of hunger pangs. Although instant meals may not be the most healthful of diets, they are filling, convenient and can be quite flavorful.

I've tasted and rated a few of them but I have to warn you that I don't cook, so you don't have to take my word for it.

Here's my ratings of some popular instant meals:

> Many busy bodies are turning to instant meals for quick relief of hunger pangs

- Maggi Instant Pancit Canton Chili-Garlic. Definitely lacks seasoning. Some parts are dry and the dish looks rather sad without veggies or meat toppings, which you have to add yourself. More seasoning is definitely recommended.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄

- Quickchow Quickie Premium Cup Mami La Paz Batchoy with *chicharon* and garlic bits. Tastes like your regular good 'ol noodles. Wonder why they thought this could pass for La Paz Batchoy.

Rating: 🥄🥄

- Maggi Cup Sarap Chicken Arroz Caldo. We've got a winner. This one comes close to mom's homemade *arroz caldo*. It needs a bit more salt, though.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Quickchow Instant Pancit Palabok. I've never been a fan of *pancit palabok* but I've eaten it enough to know that, er, it's not suppose to be like this one. There is the usual lack of seasonings, but I'm not sure if adding more would have improved its taste. It also has a rather distinct smell, which tends to kill the appetite.

Rating : 🥄

- Maggi Cup Sarap Champorado. This is verryyy sweet, perfect for those with a sweet tooth. Being not too fond of chocolates, though, I had to gulp down several glasses of water. I must say it's a great reproduction of the homemade variety.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Knorr Crab and Corn Soup. A little too salty but very tasty and authentic, with a lot of crab in it.

Rating : 🥄🥄🥄🥄

- Nissin Yakisoba Spicy Chicken. This is actually sweet and spicy, don't ask me why. Although the flavor is questionable, I'd still recommend this one because the combination of sweet and spicy actually works well. This is a great fix for unexpected hunger pangs.

Rating: 🥄🥄🥄🥄

Youth Day Summit gathers thousands of students

THOUSANDS of teenagers will gather at the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) campus this summer for the Youth Day Summit 2002.

The Youth Day Summit is an annual, three-day experiential learning program that brings together teenagers aged 13-19, from public and private schools across the country. Founded by CCP professor Cornelio Buenaventura, it is a nature-based training program à la "Survivor" where students develop decision-making and leadership skills through fun, nature-based activities.

Buenaventura came up with the idea for the Youth Day Summit after reading a McCann youth study which found that "while most young people today enjoy going to school, they find more value in activities that involve practical application of theories."

So, with the help of human resource consultant Maria Veronica Ibañez (a classmate at the Asian Institute of Management) and Maria Loretta Ramirez, Buenaventura designed a program that incorporates little or no classroom instruction. The organizers have based the program on German educator Kurt Hahn's experience and values-centered approach to education. Specifically, the YDS will be based on a module called the Outward Bound Program. It will be a wilderness challenge program.

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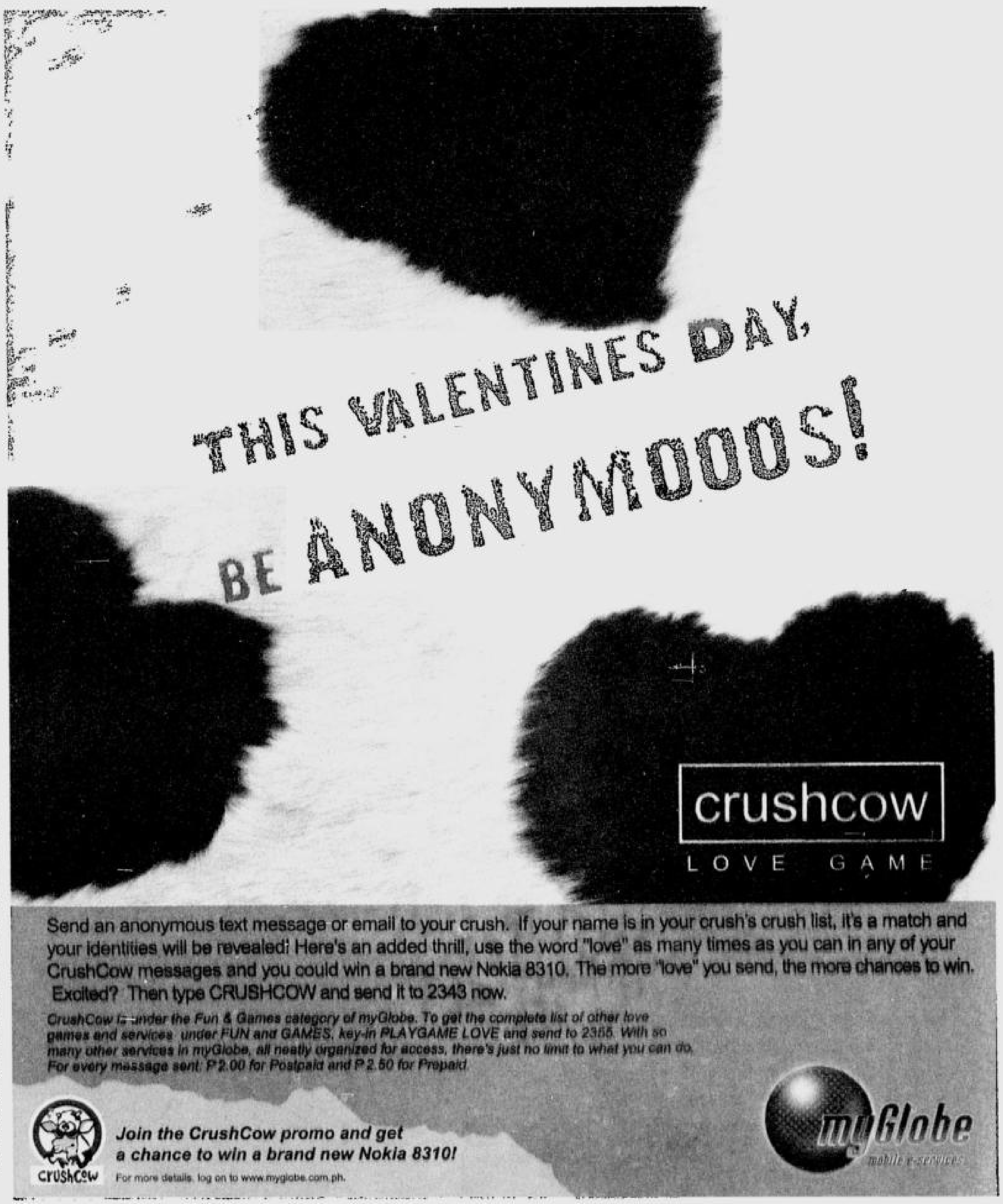

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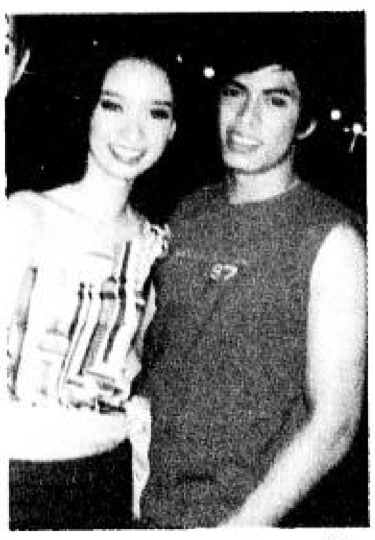
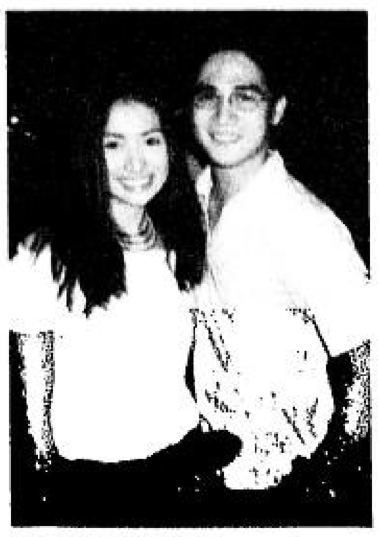
TOPSY-TURVEY. Hot from Down Under, Brad Turvey and Marc Nelson at Venezia


BENCH boy Robby Mananquil with Nicolette Bell at Rockwell

STARGAZING with Sen. Ralph Recto and Louie Ysmael


SPRITE SMART. Phoemela Baranda and Piolo Pascual

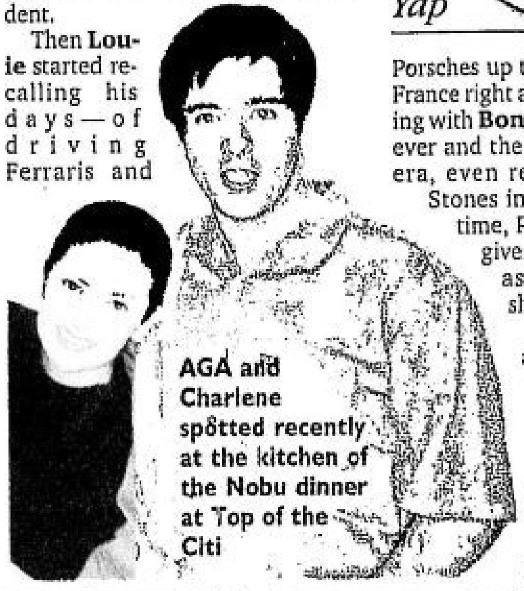
MAY-DECEMBER issue of Metro with Thelma San Juan and Jericho Rosales

MODEL CHALK. Elusive supermodel Joan Bitagcol and Romina Urra

Decadence then and now

Tim Yap

ABSOLUT-LY G! Giselle behind the bar at Dish last month


AGA and Charlene spotted recently at the kitchen of the Nobu dinner at Top of the Citi

OVER red wine and beef carpaccio, while listening to "Night to Remember" at the "Stargazing at Louie Y's" '80s nights at Venezia, I was discussing with the ageless club impresario my recent Shanghai trip. We were with this HK hotshot who was ordering bottles upon bottles of champagne like a "peaking" raver thirsting for Viva mineral water—to me that was decadent.

Then **Louie** started recalling his days—of driving Ferraris and Porsches up to a friend's chateau in France right after clubbing, of partying with **Bong Daza**, Princess whoever and the Vogue models of that era, even rejecting The Rolling Stones in their VIP room. That time, Pinoy partyphiles were given the same importance as the sheiks and the shahs of Iran.

I then shut up talking about today's excessive lifestyle. It seemed like French fries compared to the foie gras of an era gone by.

"Decadence today is fake," Louie observed. As we were discussing these, two burly expatriates who arrived with their harem of exotic girlies were rejected at the door.

Yes, there are still a few who blow fifty grand minimum on a night out, who fly to their islands in their private jets and have servants carry out their every whim. Times, however, have changed.

"It was a really different era, even in Manila—**Ernest Santiago** and Coco Banana, the theatricality of it all cannot compare to now—everything now seems contrived," said **Marge Enriquez**, our style subsection editor and my seatmate, comparing baby boomers to the text-savvy generation.

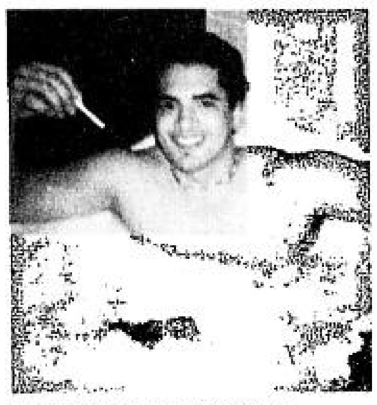
But, hey, give us a break. These are really different settings. Funny. As things get more complicated, what makes us happy becomes more essentialized. Our luxuries become simpler—time with friends (night out or otherwise), a hearty breakfast (after a hard-core night out), a hot shower (again, after a hard-core night out), a good sweat (during tae-bo or yoga—ha!). The irony lies in my other indulgences—food, travel, clothes, shoes and accessories—now that's a different kind of happiness, but that's another story.

ZOOLANDER SET. JM Rodriguez, Miko Palanca, Yaparazzi, Troy Montero, Andrew Vergara, Ed Feist and Marc Nelson

In these days of pocket parties all over the city, decadence can be stretched from having the Pinoy Nobu chefs from New York fly here to host an Asia Society fund-raising dinner to having your friends at home and cooking for them. My friend, actress **Giselle Tongi**, did just that—host a private party for 20 of her closest friends at the Discovery Suites while she cooked *adobo* and chilled with them as she packed her bags for the Big Apple.

Quiet moments are a luxury in this world. Time and peace are the most expensive elements in modern living. Extravagance now means having quality time with oneself, with great friends, no matter where and what you feel like doing. Now ain't life grand?

WANT A LIFT? Anonymous hunk Paolo Cabalfin, Athen Barnaby of Human and John Hall of Bench at the Metro Body event


BUBBLY bath with Troy Montero at Discovery Suites

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE... Giselle Tongi, Claudine Trillo and Joey Mead

EQUITABLE union of Ingrid and Patrick Go

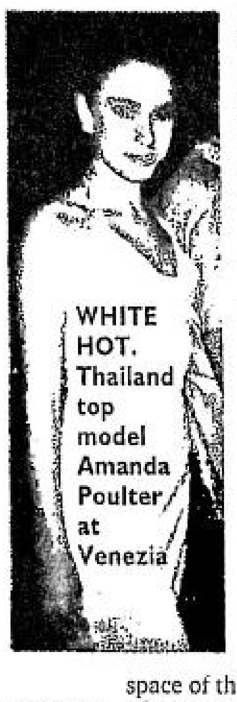
ASIA YOUNG SOCIETY. Chukri Prieto and Ines Delgado at Mati

Flesh, fresh, flesh

SUNDAY brought me to the Rockwell area where ABS-CBN Publishing had its Metro magazine "body calendar" event. Every beginning of the year, Metro comes out with its fleshy issue of celebrity bodies that gets sold out even before it hits the shelves.

This year, as if it wasn't enough, they had to put **Sharon Cuneta** on the cover—to set me plus the rest of the metropolis in a mad scramble for the issue. That night, at the Lopez compound, a giant red stage was set up at the area in front of Page One where models paraded onstage in their most intimate. "The guys were only wearing briefs!" shrieked a model (why she was shocked, I would not know) who was watching the show.

"The Hunks didn't even take anything off!" cried **Frieda Dario**, Metro's über stylish fashion editor dressed in a black Madonna-does-flamenco number. Big boss **Ernie Lopez** was entertaining other media friends while Metro top honcho **Thelma San Juan** was backstage discussing matters with the Hunks. And models **Phoemela Baranda**, **Joan Bitagcol** and Chalk editor **Romina Urra** were so thrilled they thought they were in the Sprite commercial with **Piolo Pascual**.


WHITE HOT. Thailand top model Amanda Poulter at Venezia

It was a cool weekend evening as pillars of the "lifestylista" industries met and matched under the Rockwell sky. Later, they had dinner and watched a movie—like a true family Sunday nightout.

Hip happenings in town

LAST week, Rockwell's cigar smoking bar Ché and hipster haven Aqua at the Enterprise Center celebrated their anniversaries. Friday, Wherelse's **Marcel Crespo** turned a year younger while dancing with flamenco dancers, percussionists and electric guitarists. Saturday, Groove Nation initiated a scene uniting effort—DJs **Edge**, **Cyril** and **Toti**, back to back to back with **Manolet Dario**. It's about time.

Tonight, chi-chi Libis resto Cena turns festive as it turns a year old! Also marked in everyone's calendar is **Neil Goldberg**'s Cirque! at the Araneta Coliseum, with shows from end of this month till March.

This Sunday, prepare your most "Buddhalicious red" outfits as all roads lead to Buddha Bar when it opens its heavenly gates (or shall I say elevators). It's the space of the former Fashion Café in Glorietta. To enter nirvana, just go through the elevators right outside the space of Tokyo Tokyo and Venezia, and voila!, go into party worship.

Later, go to the beach, meditate and reflect on your meaningful and fun-filled week ahead. Now that's decadent.

HIP, YOUNG SET. Marga Montemayor and JR Banzon in a stylized Diesel barong

NEW FIND. Alfie Vargas and Maricar Padilla

NOBU chefs Frank Gorriceta, Pierre Dy, Gilbert Pangilinan, Rex Soriano and Ricky Estrellado make us Pinoy and proud of it.

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~~NICOLE~~
TOM
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2BU! RECOMMENDS

Musts for your palate—Part 2

NEEDLESS to say, most of the 2bU! correspondents are food lovers. I can safely say that the biggest arguments ensue not over articles or pictures or who covers what, but which restaurant we'd order from. Maui has been known to go on campaigns to get the others to order from Tapa King. Jason experiences withdrawal symptoms if he isn't able to visit a McDonald's branch in a week (imagine his horror during last year's Boracay trip: "Walang McDo!"). Jules has a penchant for Caesar salad. Then there's Tammy with her French onion soup obsession. And Tim has his late-night hunger pangs.

Buried under the pile of junk at the 2bU! office is a secret notebook containing a list of must-tries. Here's a peek:

Cibo's crostini with spinach and gorgonzola dip. Don't be put off by the color. Give this a try. You owe it to your palate. I have made countless people taste this and most of them have gotten hooked. I am so addicted to the spinach dip that on some days I eat nothing but that. Two orders—one for lunch, another for dinner.

Sbarro's white pizza with extra cheese. This one's for the cheese lovers. Hot, stretchy, creamy cheese smothered on top of a huge slice of pizza crust. Forget popcorn; bring this to the movies.

Cinnzeo's chocoroll. Who cares if you're not chocoholic? This baby might just convert you. Cinnzeo's chocoroll is a good alternative for people who aren't big on cinnamon. The chocoroll is yet another goodie to get hooked on. Best eaten when warm and gooey.

Cinnzeo's cinnatwist with frosting dip. Cinnamon fans will love this one. Something to be even happier about? The frosting comes in several equally mouth-watering flavors.

Thai in a Box's Thai *kangkong*. Its aroma is more than enough to win you over. Thai in a Box's version of Thai *kangkong* will help you realize why that turtle was so obsessed with this vegetable. Eat with their fried rice for a delightful meal.

Thai in a Box's grilled chicken. Slabs of grilled boneless chicken breast heaped with Thai *kangkong*. The hefty serving is enough for two (if your appetite is that of a normal human being, that is).

Violet crumble. This disappeared for quite a while. Thank the chocoholic gods it's back on the market. The chocolate-covered honeycomb is ideal for a quick sugar fix.

North Park's Special Fried Noodles. Crispy noodles topped with vegetables and meat in North Park's special sauce. One order is enough for three.

Nacho Fast's pizza. This Mexican-tasting pizza will give your favorite pizza place a run for its money.

Lord Stow's egg tarts. Light, flaky puff pastry with a creamy egg filling equals heaven on earth.

Hotdog on a Stick's flavored lemonades. Sick of the old yellow lemonade? Give these colorful alternatives a shot.

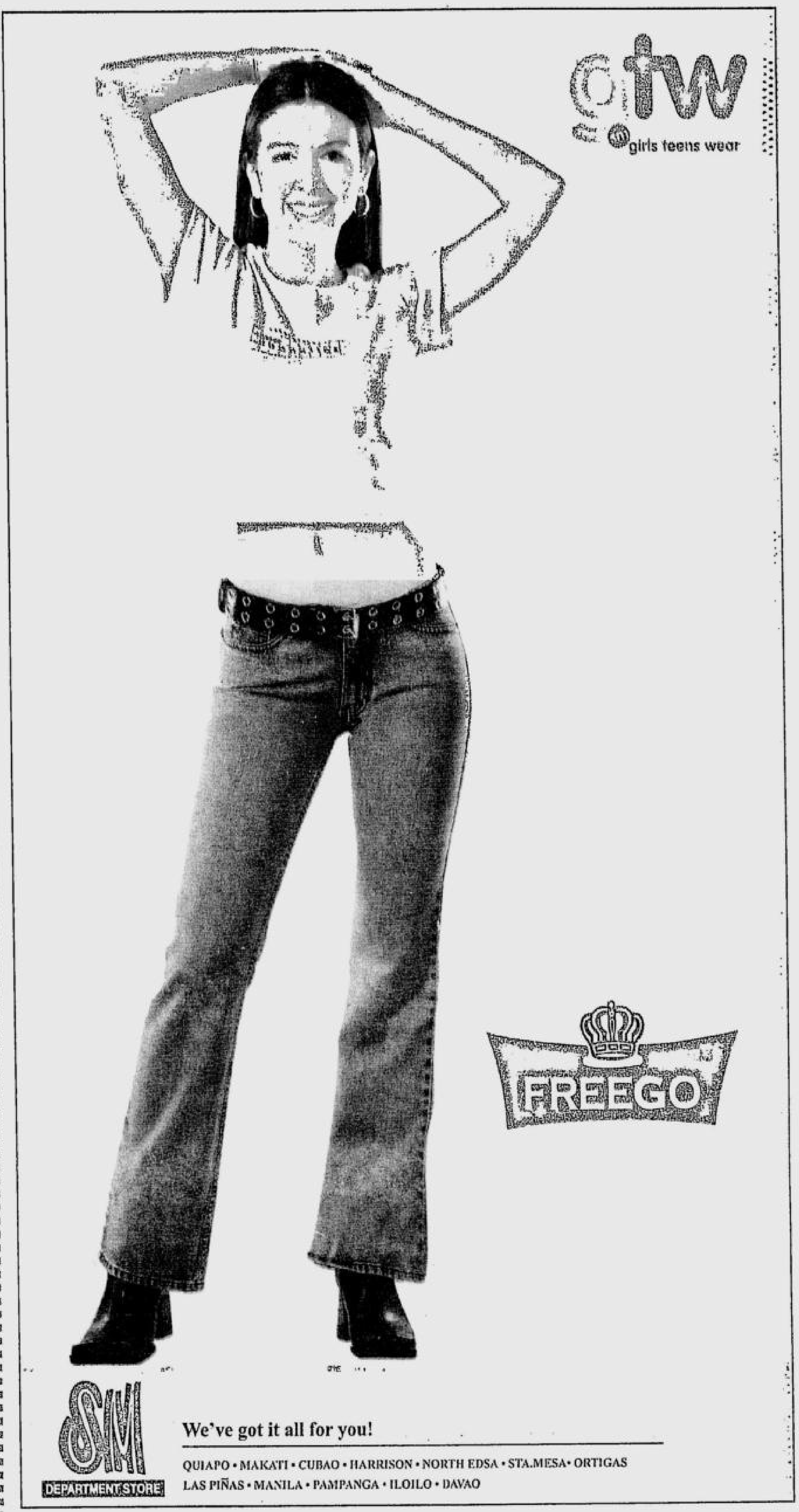
Don Henrico's mozzarella sticks. Big and served with tangy and tasty marinara sauce—yet another one for the cheese fans.

One One. Remember the egg crackers you used to bring to school when you were a kid? This is similar, only better—almost like those popular biscuits in Japan. It's way inexpensive, too.

Hap Chang's broccoli with garlic. Crisp broccoli topped with enough toasted garlic to ward off a whole clan of *aswang*.

L.A. Café's spinach pizza. Thin crust smothered with double layers of mozzarella, spinach and bacon. You may ask them to hold the bacon for a meatless meal. This one will make Popeye proud.

Pam Pastor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Chill out to a master's selections

STRESSED? Relax to the latest chill out compilation, "The Lounge Story," a brainchild of Anton Ramos, the chill master himself.

Ramos is the man behind the highly successful radio program every Thursday night on 99.5 RT—"The Chill Out Project," a two-hour radio program showcasing different music genres that are meant to be relaxing.

"The Lounge Story" has over 70 minutes of soothing beats and laid-back down tempo grooves. The 18 tracks in the album come from top chill out acts from the United Kingdom (Groove Armada, Kinobe, Way Out West, Feature Cast, Chris Coco, Blue States), United States (Elak), Canada (The New Deal), Germany (Aromabar, Hacienda, Mo Horizon), Austria (Dzihan & Kamien), Belgium (Sven Van Hees), Sweden (Club 8), Italy (The Dining Rooms, Be Noir) and Greece (Hylpar).

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CAREFUL, Happy.

THE CCA CHALLENGE

“Chefs” on charge

2bU correspondents become student chefs for a day at the Center for Culinary Arts. Nope, no one burns the house down.

Photos by Mike Alquinto

I THOUGHT it would be a breeze. I like tinkering around in the kitchen anyway. And I used to be really good at my elective culinary classes in high school. The students at Center of Culinary Arts probably have it easy, I thought. I was wrong. Dead wrong.

My realization was gradual. It occurred:

When I got the list of guidelines for the uniforms: black cotton pants so I wouldn't set myself on fire; chef's jacket; long hair tied; nails short, clean, no polish; no makeup, no jewelry, no watches, no black socks and, uh, what was that again? Yeah, no-skid shoes. Whoa, these kids have to remember these rules every day? (Actually, I found out later on that they also have to wear hairnets, bring their hand towels and kitchen tools and make sure their knives are always sharp) And I complain about my school uniform!

When chef Kim Santos started telling us about his exams—how his students have to learn to flip eggs perfectly or else they fail. Imagine telling your mom, “Ma, I have to repeat this class because I dropped my egg.”

When we observed the students taking their midterms in the Fish Mongerie class. They had to fillet a *lapu-lapu* in 40 minutes. They entered the room with a perfect score. Points were deducted for dull knives, improper uniforms, too much flesh left on the bones, a bone left in the fillet. No wonder some of them were shaking as they took the exam.

When we were told about temperamental chefs that scream at their students.

When I saw a girl cut her finger and bravely smile while chef Kim cleaned her wound. If that were me, I would have been wailing for pain killers. (Or would have been on the floor unconscious.)

When we found out that at least one student cuts himself every day.

When we found out that just a week ago, a student cut himself so bad that he had to be brought to the hospital to be stitched. Even more so when we actually saw the stitches on his left hand later on.

When I started to botch up the batter for our Pâte à Choux (Thank you, Nico Conde, for saving my skin—and our batter).

When the other group's Pâte à Choux ended up looking like butter cookies.

When I saw a girl burn herself and bravely apply ointment on her sore finger. (Courage and high threshold for pain must be a requirement in this school.)

When the phyllo I was trying to roll to perfect thinness started to tear.

When time came for cleanup—countless dishes, pans and utensils to be washed, counter tops and stoves to be magically transformed to gleaming utensils, floor to be mopped and dried.

But the good things stay with you. Such as:

How eating is a regular part of the class—and how the chefs constantly whip up goodies for students to try.

How enthusiastic the families of these students must be to find out what they've learned in class. “Why don't you bake for us the diplomate you made in class?” I'll bet my chocolate-filled marshmallows that no mother has ever said, “*Anak*, why don't you show me the mnemonic words you learned in Logic today?”

How they don't have to wait for graduation for them to apply what they've learned in school. One girl told me about a student who learned so much from her butchery class that when Christmas came, she was the one who deboned the *lechon* her family had ordered.

How “classrooms”—well, okay, laboratories—are filled with delicious baking smells.

How students go to school and whip out knives and spoons, not books and rulers.

How discipline is instilled.

How the library is filled with cookbooks.

How the chef's jackets look sexy. (Then again that could just be the pervert in me talking.)

How students spend one class learning to make appetizers and another making sauces.

How you can practice at home for your exams. (“Ma, my fish mongerie mid-terms are coming up, can you buy me a lot of *lapu-lapu*?” or “I need a dozen eggs. Gotta practice flipping.”)

How you spend your time doing what you love. If your passion is cooking—CCA is paradise. Maita Atienza, the friendly girl who saw me through baking class, got a degree in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs at DLSU before discovering that her life's passion is whipping up goodies for other people to enjoy. Now, she is doing just that in CCA—and applying it at her newly opened café, Kaffa, on Valero Street, Makati.

The many things I learned in just one day. You have to remove a tiny stalk inside a garlic clove because that makes the heart beat faster. You can mix flour with butter to get rid of the excess water. You should use only dry cheese when making puff pastry. How to tell if a fish is fresh. The three things you need to be a chef. How important it is that you care about what you're doing (this one does not only apply to cooking).

The camaraderie between the chefs and students. How the student chefs scramble to get whatever kitchen tool the chefs need, like nurses eager to help surgeons. How the students joked around with chef Jeff Catral. And how chef Philippe Agnese's strength as a mentor could be felt—how patient he was and how welcome he made me feel in his class (“The last person who left this class without eating is still hanging in the garage.”).

The relationship among the students themselves. Being of different ages, they have class babies, *ates* and *kuyas*. They help each other with their recipes, they joke around, they eat together, they have fun. These students function not only as classmates but as friends—and maybe even family.

I'm not surprised. In the short time that we spent there, we felt like we were home.

Yes, these students don't have it easy. But they sure are lucky. Really lucky.

Pam Pastor

CHEF Jeff gets the pâte à choux ready for baking.

HANDS CLEAN. Make sure you wash for at least 20 seconds.

THESE student mongers are extremely quick.

PÂTE À CHOUX baked to almost-perfection (maybe not quite)

THE GROUPS on a rampage to finish the day's lab work

CHEF KIM comforts wounded student.

STUDENT chef applying ointment on her burned finger.

A geek on chefdom

D[illegible] having been a student for [illegible] than half my life, entering the CCA as a guest student felt like being a geek on his first day of school. First off, I looked totally lousy in my uniform; a *walis tingting* figure doesn't necessarily fill in a chef's uniform nicely. While my classmates looked respectable in their toques and chef's jackets, I, to put it simply, didn't look hot (which is normal of me, anyway). Second, my knowledge of food was as meager as my knowledge of mathematics. I used to think of French toast as that customary thing people do as they raise their glasses in France. Lastly, I expected my classmates to turn out like those brats in American movies who terrorize newcomers. That or all-knowing suck-ups who look down on “normal” people.

Thank God, there was no need for me to deal with my last fear. My classmates at the sauces and cooking methods class were the friendliest bunch of people I had ever known. They introduced themselves with big smiles, and one guy, Kerwin, was so enthusiastic he [illegible] like one of those “That's My Boy” contestants.

The chefs (or what we would call professors in college), Gene Cordova and Rommel Hinlo, gave us a background on what the class had been learning, which was poaching. For a moment I felt guilty because they suddenly had an impromptu recitation for my and the other correspondent, Giles', benefit, but I guess it was all right since the class seemed to know their lesson pretty well.

So poaching is cooking food by covering it in liquid, which is called *courtbouillon*. It is usually composed of water, wine, onions or carrots. The day, they [illegible] serve poached egg, chicken and salmon [illegible] on the demonstration that their chefs gave the previous day.

I ch[illegible] to join Group 4, which was composed [illegible] Sheila Enriquez, Cathy Lim and Joseph [illegible]n. I didn't know what their excitement [illegible] all about when they learned that I was joining their group since I was very capable of jeopardizing their cooking. However, my classmate-for-the-day, Paolo Polumbarit, explained that they would have a bigger chance of seeing their names on print if I were to join their group. Hurrah!

We then headed to the kitchen or laboratory so that the groups could start the preparations, or “prep” for short. By this time, the atmosphere still seemed relaxed and the room was still pretty cool. Ice was prepared on the trays below the working tables to maintain the freshness of the salmon and chicken, as well as the butter and vegetables. Sheila explained that their chefs would check the working table before they began working.

The students moved efficiently, as if they were already programmed to do whatever was necessary. No minute was wasted as they washed the pans, distributed the butter and the other materials necessary.

I told Sheila that I had a notion that student chefs had it easy compared to their university counterparts. I personally think that anything without trigonometry was chicken feed.

“I won't say that's true,” she said. “In fact, we have applied mathematics here and then there's quantity food production.” But aside from that, Sheila explained that cooking had its difficulties, like being cut by a knife accidentally, slipping on the floors or being burned. But it was obvious that she and her classmates were enjoying themselves here.

In fact, Sheila used to be a mass communications student at St. Paul's College. But she had to stop since her family had to go to the US for her father's operation. When she came back, it was too late for her to re-enrol. A family friend recommended her to the CCA. “I'm happy where I am now,” she explained. “I intend to earn my diploma here.”

Thirty minutes later, the room started to get hot. The butters were melted, the courtbouillon steamed, and the breads toasted. Panic started to rise as the students were given an hour and 15 minutes. With only their notes and memories on hand, they cooked their way to the test. At this point, the dishes also started piling up, and later, one would note that despite their sore, [illegible] hands, they still did the dishwashing.

About 10 minutes before the de[illegible]e, there was hollandaise sauce that was [illegible]heated, courtbouillon that boiled (which was a no-no), and bread that got burned. In my mind, I was asking how they could co[illegible] up with a miracle for the food tasting. But I shouldn't have worried. When I final[illegible] sank my teeth into the poached salmon, and the white wine cream sauce reached my palate, I knew I was in for heaven. My classmates didn't fail me.

Jason Doplito

E-mail the author at jason_2bu@yahoo.com

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Kitchen, here I come!

THE ATMOSPHERE was inviting. The smell of good food was tempting. And I was very nervous to face the challenge, not only because I barely cooked at home, but also I was poor in following instructions. Tension was building up as we headed to the sauces, cooking method class. Contrary to what I was expecting, smiles welcomed Jason and me as we were introduced to a group of 14 student chefs under the supervision of chef Gene and chef Rommel.

Their welcoming presence was enough to calm me down. They were so well mannered and they knew their lessons by heart. The chef would throw a question; a student or two eagerly would answer right away.

The only time they got rowdy was when they were asked which of them wanted us in their group, not knowing that either of us might spell disaster in the kitchen. The problem was solved. I had Enrico and Nikki as my group mates. Kitchen, here we come!

3:30 p.m.: We were shown what and how things were done in the kitchen before the actual cooking would take place. Student assistants were assigned to prepare everything they needed for the day, from butter to salmon, from fillet knives to pans.

From among roasting, deep-frying, poaching and braising, we had poaching. Poaching is to cook food in a liquid on a 160°-180°F temperature as defined by one of the students. It sounded like it wasn't something one should be nervous about. Poached chicken with hollandaise sauce, poached salmon with white cream sauce and poached egg with beurre blaise sauce were prepared for the day. It took us a little briefing before we hit the kitchen dressed up as student chefs.

Major things to consider were sanitation and safety. Raw meat and vegetables were placed in a bowl placed over another bowl of ice. "This keeps them fresh because [this] keeps the bacteria from breeding. It prevents spoilage," Enrico said.

Chef Gene and chef Rommel had the MEP check—a routine check where everything should be spic and span. One guy shouted, "Prep," a short term for the word preparation.

I was expecting to do a little chopping and slicing. Good thing we only watched them do their stuff and from what I saw, I was not even a millimeter of a gastronome as those students were.

The once calm kitchen almost turned into a disaster zone as the students tried to keep up with the time limit and still keep everything perfect. Enrico did the poaching for the chicken and Nikki did the eggs and the salmon. Nikki was at the other end patiently carving the carrot into a tornet. "A tornet has seven sides representing the seven stations of the kitchen," she said. I almost thought it was the Stations of the Cross.

Enrico was so keen about keeping the temperature of the bouillon consistent as it could ruin the poaching. It was almost time, but the chef was kind and gave them three minutes more. Time check was done almost often which added extra pressure to the students.

4:50 p.m.: Time's up. Time to scrutinize the food. Chef Gene and chef Rommel approached each group; he started from Group 6 down to our group. The chefs gave my group a 6 out of 10. The problem with my group was our poached chicken. The chef said that it wasn't well done, but it looked and tasted like it was. Well, chef knows best!

It was our time to criticize. Not actually, but we were given the privilege to taste each masterpiece. No doubt, they were certified "food for the gods."

At the end of the session, Enrico asked me if I still had questions. I failed to ask him when their next session would be. I definitely miss their company.

Giles Ivan A. Aquino

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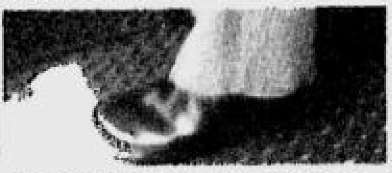
THE STUDENTS of chef Jeff watching his demo

TOOLS of the trade


CHEF FASHION. The skid-free clogs.

SWEATING over the mid-terms

NO BONES. A bone left in your *lapu-lapu* fillet means 10 points deducted from your mid-terms.

ANNA Go checks the toasted crostini.

CHEF Kim welcomes the correspondents to CCA.

CHEF Kim lays down the verdict.

March courses at the Center for Culinary Arts

March 1 and 2:
Serve Safe (seminar)
Heavenly Breads (participation)

March 2
Japanese Cuisine (participation)
Dimsum and Dumplings (participation)

March 9
Quiche and Crêpes (participation)
Salad as Main Course (participation)
Cakes, Tortes and Tarts (participation)

March 15, 16, 22 and 23:
Wedding Cake Décor Intensive II

Reservation and payments must be made at least four days before the start of the course.

The Center for Culinary Arts offers certificate courses in Baking and Pastry Arts and diploma programs in Culinary Arts and Technology Management. Call 426-4841, 426-4837, 426-4836, or 426-4825; e-mail culinary@info.com.ph or visit www.cca-manila.com.

Not too delicious lessons

SOMETIMES, what students learn at the CCA goes beyond cutting a fish or cooking the perfect Pâte à Choux. Here are some of the things CCA students live by:

Be careful not to burn your eyebrows. Have you ever seen a flambé? That's when a chef douses food in wine and sets it on fire. It's amazing to watch, although it brings to mind singed eyebrows and moustaches. Only a careful cook can pull a stunt like that without accidents. In fact, care should apply to all activities in the kitchen. The kitchen isn't a 100 percent safe, cozy little nook. It is a hazard zone of sharp knives, boiling oil, and a slippery floor where one can get hurt. Because of these hazards, CCA students learn how to take safety precautions early on.

Sanitize. It's funny how most people become squeamish when exotic dishes like ostrich meat and escargot (snails) are mentioned, but don't give a second thought to the cleanliness of typical foods they eat every day. Well, eating snails won't harm you, but eating *adobo* that was prepared by unclean hands will, uh, send you running to the toilet. This is why the utmost care must be observed in the preparation of food. According to chef Kim Santos, one of the teachers in CCA, food should only be handled after washing your hands in hot water (it should be as hot as you can take) for 20 seconds.

Teamwork counts. Too many cooks ruin the broth…unless there's teamwork. The kitchen takes on pressure cooker-like qualities when a number of aspiring chefs are working on the perfect dish (whatever it may be) on a time limit. Under these circumstances, CCA students eventually learn that dividing the work among the members of the group and simply doing one's best is the key. The famed egoistic tendencies of chefs—if it really exists—is tempered down by learning how to work well with others.

Flipping eggs isn't as easy as it sounds. Believe it or not, flipping an egg is part of the final exam in CCA. The egg has to be raw in some places and well done in others. Moral of the story? Producing gastronomical delights isn't an easy feat. Great cooking takes more than following the steps of a "Kitchenomics" recipe and dumping the ingredients in a mixing bowl. What it takes is a lot of skill (acquired through practice), patience and passion.

Cook with passion. Only passion can drive one to stay in a hot kitchen longer than necessary to perfect the art of cooking. Only passion can drive one to be particular about the ingredients used, to prefer dry cheese to quick melt, for instance. In the end, it is the passion for cooking that separates the good cooks from the mediocre ones.

Anne Rose Elicano and Happy David

E-mail anariolycos.com

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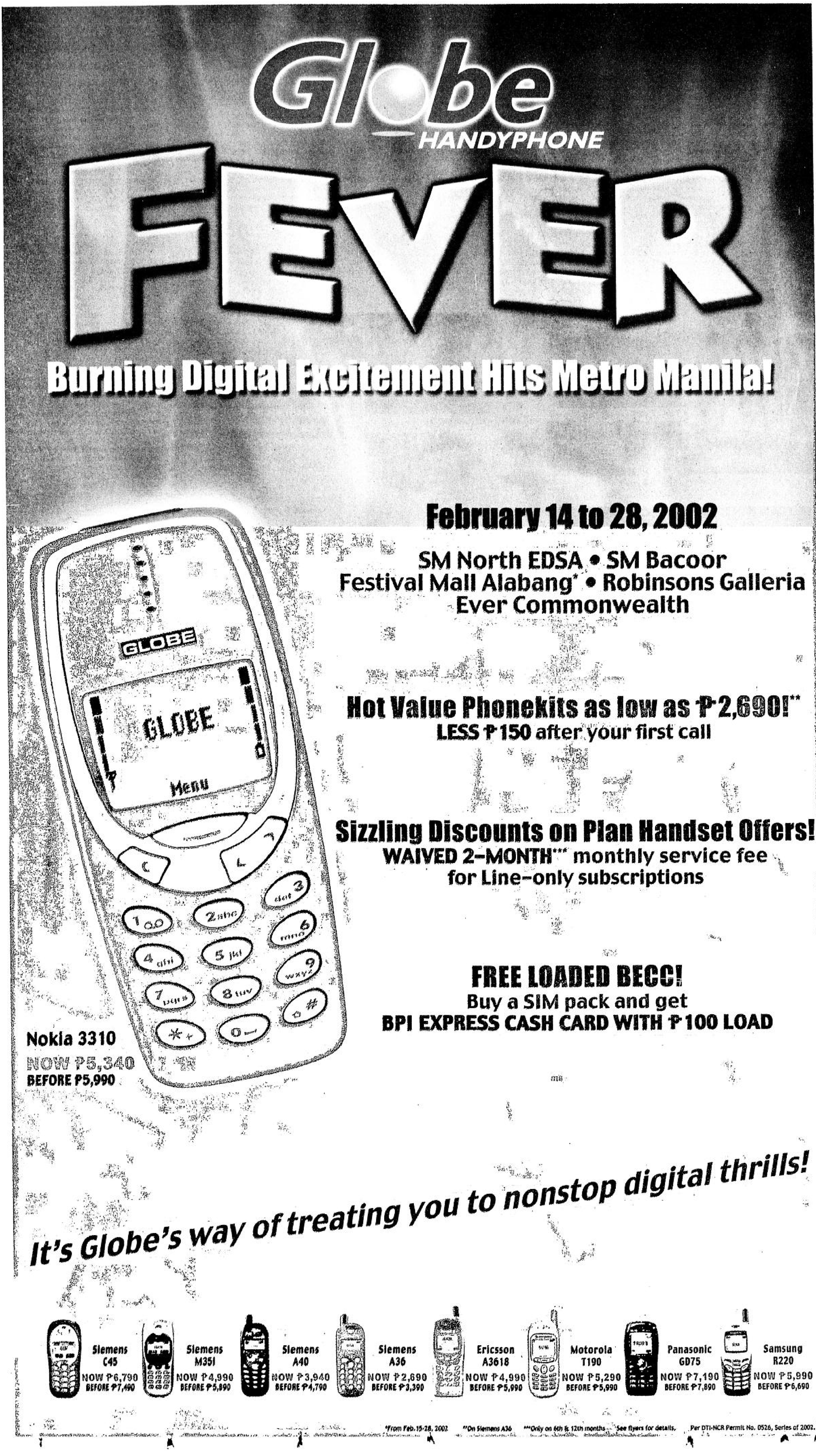

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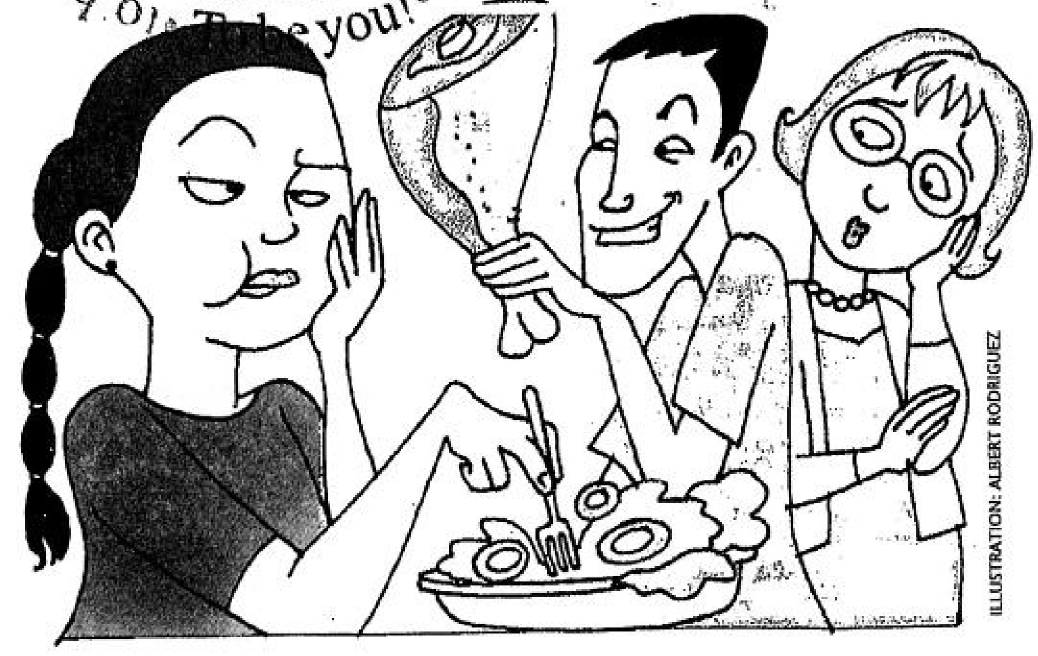
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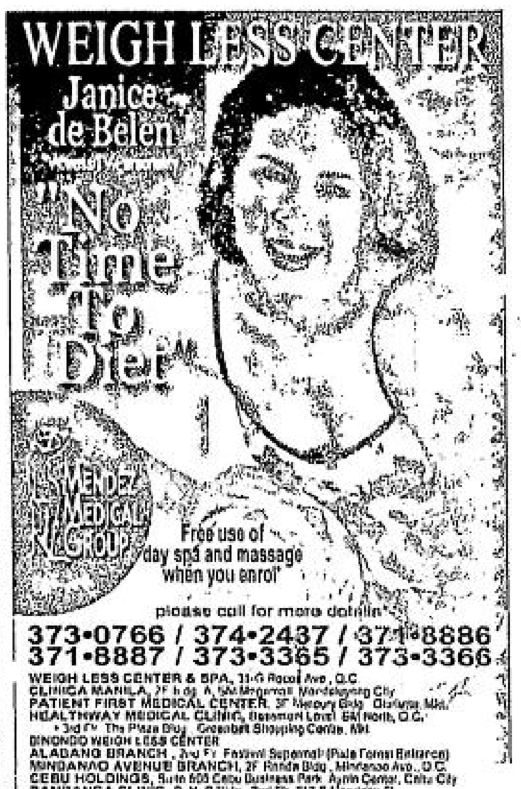

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ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

Green and loving it

By Pam Pastor

> The road to a meat-free existence is not easy—especially when you're surrounded by smart alecks

WHILE I admit to having schizophrenic tendencies, there is a list of things I don't think I can ever mutate into. Among them, an athlete, a submissive doormat, a nun, a vegetarian. Or so I thought.

One seemingly insignificant incident caused a complete change in my diet. Because of traffic, our car stopped right beside a man who was holding chickens by the legs. The upside-down chickens were only a couple of inches away from my nose—with only the car window separating us. I could have sworn they were looking at me and asking for help. Those few seconds of seeing the poor animals hanging upside down, knowing they were about to die and end up as some hungry kid's dinner just made my stomach churn.

At that moment, I promised myself that after getting back from my trip to Cebu (I was about to leave for the Sinulog in a few days at that time and I already knew I'd be reviewing restaurants), I would stop eating meat.

And I did.

Minus a few unintentional glitches, I haven't eaten meat in over a month. This is a major feat for me. See, I love food. I used to live for food—meat, particularly. I needed my dose of steaks, chops, chicken, bacon, even Ma-ling, otherwise I'd get cranky. I was a carnivore and proud of it.

You can just imagine the shock of my loved ones when they discovered the change in my diet. No more meat—no animals, not even seafood, not even *bagoong*.

Jason, who was the first witness to the change, summed it up in two words. "Very wrong."

Jules became very emotional. "Pam, this was preordained. That's how the food chain works!"

My mom keeps asking the same thing, *"Hindi ka ba nagugutom?"*

My *lola* has been wonderful. She keeps whipping up dishes for me—pasta, salads and au gratin, which is now a favorite.

I have been overloading on vegetables, fruits, potatoes, dairy and eggs. And contrary to what most people will think, I haven't gotten sick of vegetables and salads yet. But I am sick of a lot of other things. Like:

- Constantly having to explain why I'm doing this.

I've been hearing endless echoes of "You're trying to lose weight? Don't lose too much weight." Or, "That could be the start of an eating disorder." Double triple duh. I cannot count the number of times I've explained that I am *not* doing this to lose weight. I've never been one to diet—I would never deprive myself just to lose a few measly pounds. I just don't feel right about having other creatures killed just to satisfy my cravings.

- Having to reassure people I'm fine and not on the verge of dropping dead.

"Drink vitamins," countless relatives and friends have said. I think that's sweet. Thank you for the concern. But please quit looking at me like you're expecting me to suddenly just faint. I feel alive—even more alive than ever, if that's possible.

- People placing bets on how long this will last.

My relatives and friends have been trying to figure out how long my "vegetarian phase" (that's how they call it) will last. An uncle said it would last only two weeks. Nope, sorry. A great-uncle said I'd cave in on Valentine's Day—nope, never did. A cousin is betting this won't last 'til Christmas. Let's just see. But if I

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Deadline for SSEAYP application set

THE NATIONAL Youth Commission (NYC) announces the opening of application for delegates and National Leader to the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP), an annual youth cultural exchange program that aims to promote friendship among youths from the Asean and Japan.

SSEAYP is open to Filipino youths, 18-30 years old, single, of good moral character, an active officer/member of any youth/youth-serving organization, physically and mentally fit to travel, preferably a first-time traveler and must not have been a grantee of NYC-funded international travel, has strong background of Philippine history, geography and culture, knowledgeable of current issues of the Philippines, Japan and Asean countries and must be a resident of the region represented for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application.

The National Leader must be 31 years old or above, a government employee or official, physically and mentally fit to travel, of good moral character and knowledgeable in Asean and international concerns. Experience in youth-related affairs will be an advantage.

SSEAYP is a two-month program sponsored by the Japanese government and the Asean-member countries. Participants will live together on board a Japanese luxury ship and visit the Asean countries and Japan. These young "ambassadors of goodwill" will call on local government officials, interact with local youth, visit various social institutions and historic places, and participate in the "home stay program" where they shall live with local families to experience family life in the country.

Interested applicants should submit an application letter, five copies of SSEAYP application form, brief résumé (not more than three pages), five copies of passport-size colored photos in white background, letter reference from school/community/NGO where the applicant is an officer/member, barangay and police clearance, photocopy of passport (information page), certificate of good moral character and two self-addressed letter envelopes with P10 worth of stamps on each.

Complete application requirements may be submitted personally or mailed to the SSEAYP Secretariat of the National Youth Commission at 4/F Bookman Building, 373 Quezon Ave., 1100 QC. Deadline for submission of applications is on March 27.

CD album gathers Asian musicians

THE WORLD'S best Scotch whisky brings together Asia's up-and-coming DJs in a CD collection and a series of chill-out parties in Manila.

"The music of 'Eastern Sunrise' asks you to open your ears and your mind," says Hans Ebert, creative VP of Universal Music and executive producer of the CD collection.

"Eastern Sunrise" is the first in a series of albums that gathers Asian musicians. Chivas Regal will host a series of chill-out parties in Manila's bars and restaurants.

Featured in the "Easter Sunrise" collection is Filipino artist Don Don Renato, also known as Houseboy. His "A Season for Flying" is the album's premier track. Houseboy is a veteran DJ in Manila who ventured into electronic music. He started playing Live Techno P.A. sets instead of records. He owns a club in Malate called Verve Room.

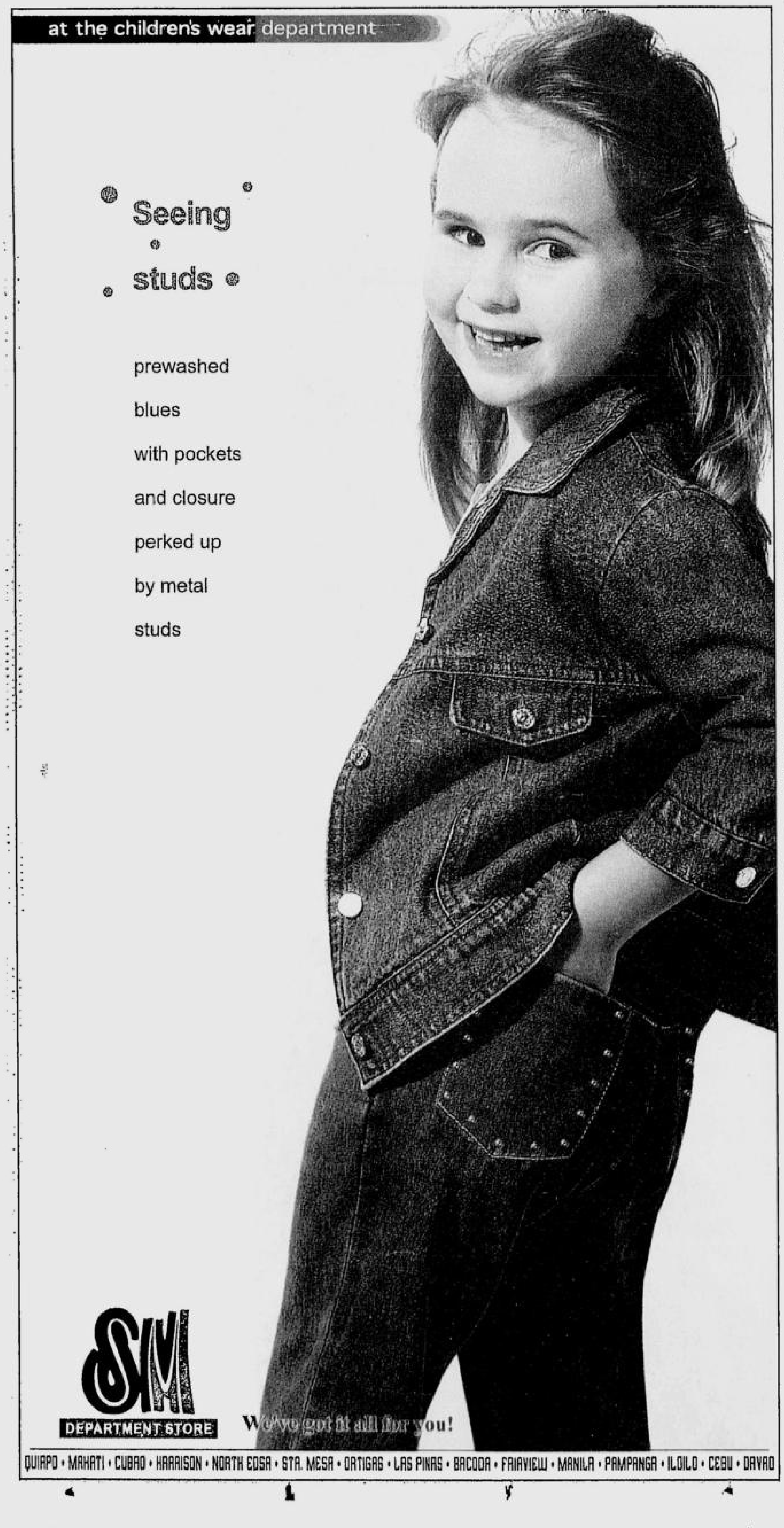
"I concentrate on the music, not just on technology. I try not to focus on just one genre, although I love the sound of the '70s," says the 31-year-old artist.

Houseboy started his career in Baguio. He then moved to Manila where he stayed for three years. He went to Sydney, Australia for further studies. It is in Australia that he witnessed the power of music, performance and the great influence of DJs in the club scene and music industry.

"Eastern Sunrise" includes tracks from David Packer, Singapore's Paul T. and Case, India's Asha Bhonsle, Thailand's Armchair, Malaysia's Silvertone and Camelia, Hong Kong's John von Seggern and Japan's Sojiro. The CD includes a track of Nelly Furtado's smash hit, "I'm Like a Bird," remixed with Asha Bhonsle's music to create an "electronic duet."

Chill out with Chivas Regal and "Eastern Sunrise" and get a chance to win a trip to Bali, Indonesia for two and a three-night accommodation in Bali's luxurious Puri Indah Resort, a stone's throw from the famed Legian Beach.

"Eastern Sunrise" CD is available at Tower Records, Odyssey, Music One and all SM music stores in Metro Manila.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Foods, fallacies, facts and fun

CHEF Kim Santos of the CCA admonished the 2bU! correspondents during our visit that cutting lettuce for salads with a knife would bruise the leaves, make it turn brown faster and leave a metallic, rusty taste. Instead, most chefs are taught to tear the leaves with their hands. I can almost hear an instructor chef screaming in a French accent, "Do not cut zee lettuce! Tear eet jentlee. Like zo!"

From his cautionary words, I remembered an article debunking food myths that I had read in an old issue of Reader's Digest. I ransacked my entire house for that March 1993 issue, to find out what the article had to say about lettuce leaves.

The article featured food scientist and author Harold McGee and his experiments with food. McGee "has investigated countless cooking rituals that have persisted because no one ever bothered to put them to the test." This guy has confirmed that water really does boil faster with the lid on, but only after it reaches 150°F. (Please don't ask me to compute what that is in Celsius.)

And while we're on the subject of temperature, the chef had also learned that the best way to quick-chill beer and wine is to plunge the bottles into buckets of water and ice. This will cool the drinks faster than by sticking them into the freezer. While ice water is much warmer than a zero-degree freezer, the water is better for absorbing heat from the bottles than air. Useful news for party people out there!

So, what does he have to say about our lettuce dilemma? Using the scientific method that we learned in high school biology class, McGee got lettuce, cut some up and tore up the others, placed them in the fridge and took a look after a few days. He concluded we can either cut or tear and "the salad will look the same."

So I guess if the leaves will bruise the same way no matter how you treat them, the only problem left is the metallic taste. And that reminds me of an episode of "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman" where the doctor had an anemic patient. Dr. Quinn told the patient to put a rusty nail in her water every time she drank some. I remember my reaction was a mix of disgust and fascination. What a simple yet effective (albeit gross) way of getting more iron into the body!

Just recently, on another TV show (I know, I know, I watch too much TV), a nutritionist recommended using iron skillets in cooking as a way to get some iron into the food. So I guess that Dr. Quinn is one lady ahead of her time!

The use of science to explain food and cooking holds a glamorous appeal for some. (Sue me, I'm a geek.) When something integral to our lives is explained in terms one can actually understand, it becomes comprehensible.

This is probably why I love watching the cooking show "Good Eats" on cable TV. (I don't cook, but that doesn't mean I can't experience it vicariously!) Hosted by Alton Brown, the show works in the same vein, instructing would-be and armchair cooks on the fine art of culinary escapades with scientific explanations liberally thrown in.

Unlike cooking show host Ming Tsai, who annoys the hell out of me because he always talks like he has a cold, Brown is charismatic, amusing, entertaining and never boring. For him, it's not enough for the show to simply tell you yeast makes bread dough rise. He even dramatizes the yeast releasing gas into the air! The last episode showed sock puppets to visualize the yeast, happily "burping" air into the dough. The show even has a charming resident food scientist, Shirley Corriher (who kind of looks like INQUIRER food critic Doreen Fernandez), who eloquently discusses food down to the molecular level!

But for all the science in the world, what matters most in the end are the fun and good times cooking and eating bring us. And you don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that. ***Walter Ang***

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com.

Green and *loving it*

From page D1

were them, I wouldn't hold my breath. I'm pretty sure this is how I want to live.

- People starting that "chicken versus the egg" argument with me.

No, not the "which came first" debate (off topic: Reader's Digest published a scientific answer to this age-old conflict), this one's a bit more "moral." After finding out I still eat eggs, the people around me have been getting a kick out of trying to convince me that eating an egg is more evil than eating a chicken. Attempts to explain to them in a very polite, matter-of-fact manner that eggs are a good source of protein are futile. They still ramble on and on. My father started this. "At least the chickens have had the chance to live. Eggs are aborted chickens!" His sentiments have been echoed by a lot of other people. I'd rather not say who. Just allow me to roll my eyes slowly.

- Hearing the "Vegetables have feelings, too" monologue.

After hearing I don't like having animals in pain, wisecracks then launch into their boring and repetitive monologues about vegetables getting hurt. "Cabbages howl when they're pulled from the ground." Uhh, okay, I hope that makes you happy.

- Having people say, "You know, I wanted to do that but I just couldn't."

I don't know if that's the truth. It can be just their way of being polite or an attempt at solidarity. The "I just can't" statement is usually followed by an excuse. Either they tried but they felt weak after (which is crap, if you ask me) or "I just can't give up my _____ (fill in chicken or steak or pork chop or *sisig* or whatever)." Yeah, yeah, yeah. Do it. *Then* tell me about it.

- Establishments that have absolutely zilch for vegetarians—or those that pretend to be vegetarian-friendly but aren't.

It's not easy being the lone vegetarian in a group of nine, especially if your friends love eating at KFC (sidings overload) or places that serve "*sisig*" and pork chops. I usually end up buying something from a different place (cheese pizza, potatoes, etc.) and sneaking that into their chosen restaurant. But it's even more difficult when restaurants claim to serve vegetarian goodies when they really don't. One time I went to a deli and asked the girl behind the counter, "Do you have vegetarian pasta?"

The sunny, perky answer: "Yes, spinach lasagna."

Great. So I ordered that. Headed back to the office and decided to enjoy my lunch while working. Egad. The spinach lasagna was loaded with ground meat. Making a face, I passed it on to Tim.

I wouldn't be surprised if vegetarians throw up in one of these places soon. That should teach them a lesson.

Another thing that's even more difficult is being a vegetarian in a foreign country. I was queuing up in one of the restaurants near school when I heard a foreigner (he was Russian, if my ears serve me right) trying to order something meat-free.

"Ve-ge-tarian pasta? No meat? No?"

The guy behind the counter just stared with his mouth half-open. He started nodding like one of those ugly plastic dogs, but his expression gave away the fact that he had no idea what the guy was talking about. The foreigner was evidently getting frustrated. His face was turning into a deep crimson, his arms flailing.

I stepped in and helped him order fries.

- People telling me how I am contributing to the destruction of the ecosystem.

In other words, telling me I made the wrong decision. They keep asking me, "What would happen if everyone decides to stop eating meat? There will be too many chickens and pigs running around.. yadda yadda yadda." I refuse to acknowledge these statements even with the simplest retort.

- People constantly attempting to tempt me into eating meat again.

Yes, I know it's a Filipino trait to offer food even when the person with you is already eating but, please, stop waving meat in my face. Contrary to what everyone may think, I am not salivating for a piece of lamb chop or even the juiciest sliver of duck meat. My potatoes and spinach dip are good enough, thank you.

A great-aunt (whose daughter has been vegetarian for seven years now) summed up my month's journey in one statement, "Many people will try to discourage you. Ignore them. What you're doing is good."

Of course, there have also been loved ones who have been nothing but supportive. And I appreciate that.

I agree. I made this decision as an individual. I'm not out campaigning for others to follow suit. All I know is that this feels good. In the same way that I respect you and your love for meat, please respect my choice. Leave me and my lettuce alone.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

Food *should* comfort, not *cause* stress

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent, UP Diliman

ADOLESCENTS and young adults often develop habits or gain insights on hunger, weight regulation and eating from classrooms, friends and media. Many of them became familiar with two major subtypes of eating disorders—anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa—that got a lot of media attention because famous personalities were suffering from them.

Olympic-class gymnast Christy Heinrich's bout with anorexia and self-confessed bulimic Princess Diana made a lot of people familiar with those two eating disorders.

But obesity or overweight, although most people already have some knowledge about it by now, remains the most common eating problem. 2bU! shares some new insights on what, when and how we overeat.

Social outcast

Overeating can take the form of binge eating, ingesting food in a fixed period of time in an amount that is clearly larger than most individuals would eat under similar conditions. Commonly labeled as "feeding frenzy," an individual who goes on binge eating loses all control and eats on a whim and in haste. Called hyperphagia in biology, grossly excessive eating leads to rapid weight gain and severe obesity.

But binge eating has so far not been classified as an eating disorder as experts need to study it further. Problems classified as eating disorders are serious disturbances in a person's eating activities that result from the sufferer's fixated fear of gaining weight. Anorexic individuals develop an obsessive concern with food and struggle for control while bulimic persons are distinguished by binge eating, excessive exercise and extreme fasting. In other words, eating problems are dieting disorders.

With popular culture becoming obsessed with physical appearance, societies have become weight-obsessed and obese individuals often become social outcasts. Social pressure has made dieting an obsession with some people. The young have not been spared and, as a result, teeners and young adults engage in binge eating in secret then carry out life-threatening weight-loss regimens as in the case of anorexic and bulimic people.

Normal becomes abnormal

Research both here and abroad shows that young people are usually the victims of eating disorders. Weight gain is actually normal during the adolescent stage, thus changes in body shape and weight are natural and normal in early teens until young adulthood. Ironically, it is also around this time that young people conduct self-evaluations and become obsessed with body weight and shape. Binge eating has been found to be related to numerous psychological and physical difficulties, not just anorexia and bulimia.

When does a person really become obese? Obesity is excessive body fat, a body weight that is 20 percent above "standard" weight. Acute overweight means carrying roughly 40 percent more weight. An individual's "ideal" weight, however, are related to height and metabolism. A physician's recommendation of appropriate weight should be considered more than the standard weight set in existing tables.

Scientists agree that socio-cultural factors affect how an individual assesses his/her body shape and weight. Among women, thinness is equated in many societies with beauty, fitness, success and even happiness. Thus, more and more young women (and a few men) feel guilty about occasional binge eating sessions and try to counteract their overindulgence with self-induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, or too much exercise. An individual who weighs only 85 percent of what should be his/her standard weight is too thin and more vulnerable to health problems that could be serious, even fatal.

Drawing comfort from food

We all eat. Though eating is meant to generate energy for the body's function and survival, we generally enjoy and draw immense pleasure from the process. Binge eating, and overeating in general, can be comforting and can alleviate unhappiness. Some people overeat because they are unhappy, under stress or pressure, or simply easing an intense hunger. In binge eating, a person may particularly choose foods that are high in calories like ice cream or cookies.

If people regulate their eating and stick to normal limits, body weight shall remain relatively constant. Whether an individual loses weight by dieting, exercise or liposuction (surgical removal of fat), he/she is likely to revert to the original weight if he/she resumes the same level of physical activities and eating habits. Occasional overstuffing is allowable as its comforting positive effects can help alleviate depression. But if after eating a person feels physically uncomfortable and becomes terrified of gaining weight, binge eating becomes unhealthy.

Filipinos, however, can take comfort in the observation of Ma. Krupskaya Añonuevo, lecturer at the Department of Psychology in the University of the Philippines, Diliman, that obesity is still not as alarming a problem as it is in the United States. She notes that Asian countries like the Philippines has a low food consumption because there is less to eat. Also, many researches show that eating disorders are far more common in industrialized societies where thinness is the ideal than in non-industrialized societies (e.g. agricultural communities), where a more rounded body is preferred.

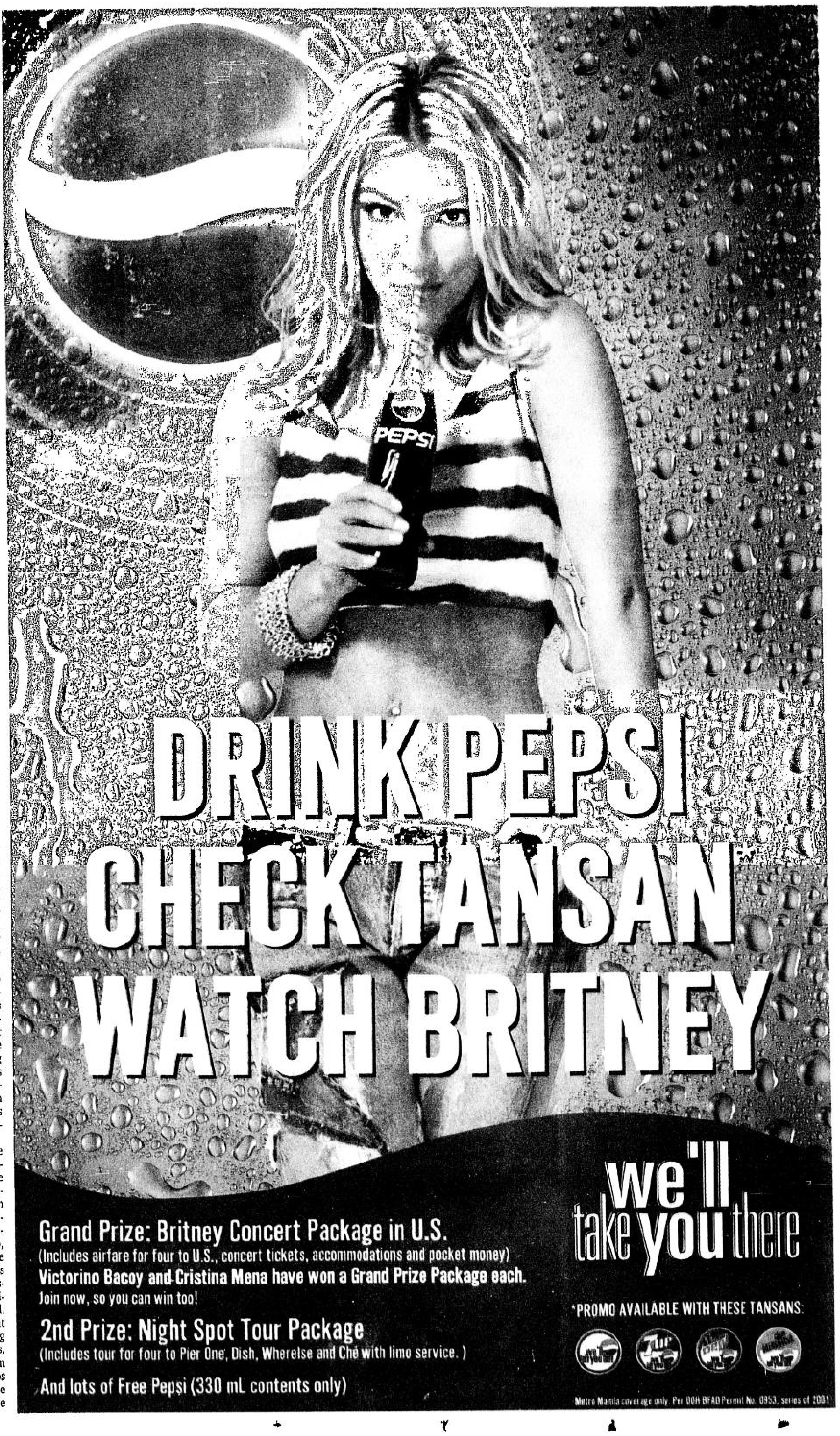
Those who may not be reassured by that finding and who feel the need to do something to regulate their eating have several options. Psychologists have found, for instance, that an episode of compulsive and rapid eating stops if someone unexpectedly interrupts. So people who have the strong urge to overindulge should not hide but should do their eating in a place where people are most likely to walk in on them. Eating many small meals (snacks or *merienda*) each day is better than a few big meals, especially if there is no problem regarding access to and supply of food.

It should also be understood that it is not solely because of lack of control that people have difficulty controlling their weight. Scientists say factors like genes and the environment have significant roles to play.

Most importantly, permanent weight loss also requires a permanent lifestyle change.

> With popular culture becoming obsessed with physical appearance, obese individuals often become social outcasts

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



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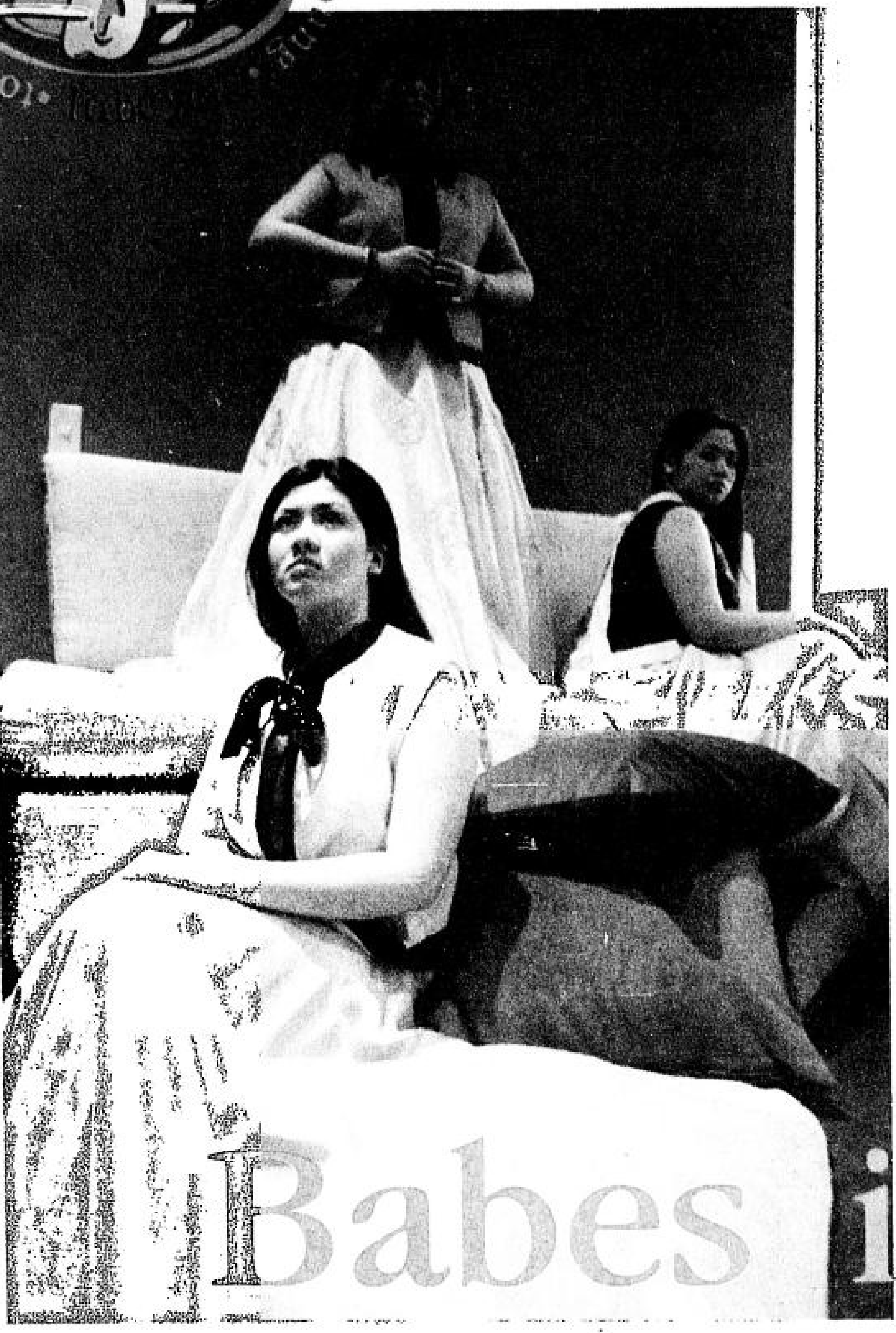
BELLES OF THE BALL. Berna, Cai and Marj in stylized Criselda Lontok tops and ball skirts



PAJAMA PARTY. Intimate sleepwear by Natori

MEDITATE into high heavens with this mint green Criselda Lontok top and white Due ruffled skirt.

PHOTOS BY
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
STYLING BY TIM YAP AND
TINA PAMINTUAN
ACCESSORIES BY
HAPPY DAVID
MAKEUP BY CAI CUASAY
CLOTHES BY RUSTAN'S

LOCATION: BUDDHA BAR
SPECIAL THANKS TO
RUSTANT'S, STORE
SPECIALISTS INC., KATRINA
TANTOCO, ANTON HUANG,
JACOB FERNANDEZ AND CHI
OF BUDDHA BAR

Babes in the city

By Pam Pastor

2bU! makes a fearless fashion forecast: thin is out, voluptuous is in

RUBENESQUE. This describes the women in the masterpieces of Renaissance painter Peter Paul Rubens—women with glorious thighs and voluptuous curves.

But the term and the adoration for shapely women have been buried in an avalanche of fascination with thinness: Twiggy reincarnated as Kate Moss, fashion magazines that uphold the waif as the new look, men chasing after these walking mannequins, anorexia, bulimia and the rampant obsession of females to look like sticks.

Countless individuals (women in particular) have fallen into the trap. They believe that their worth is directly proportional to their vital statistics. Or that no one will love them because their thighs are all cellulite-y. Give me a break! (That includes you, Bridget Jones) A tiny waist does not guarantee happiness.

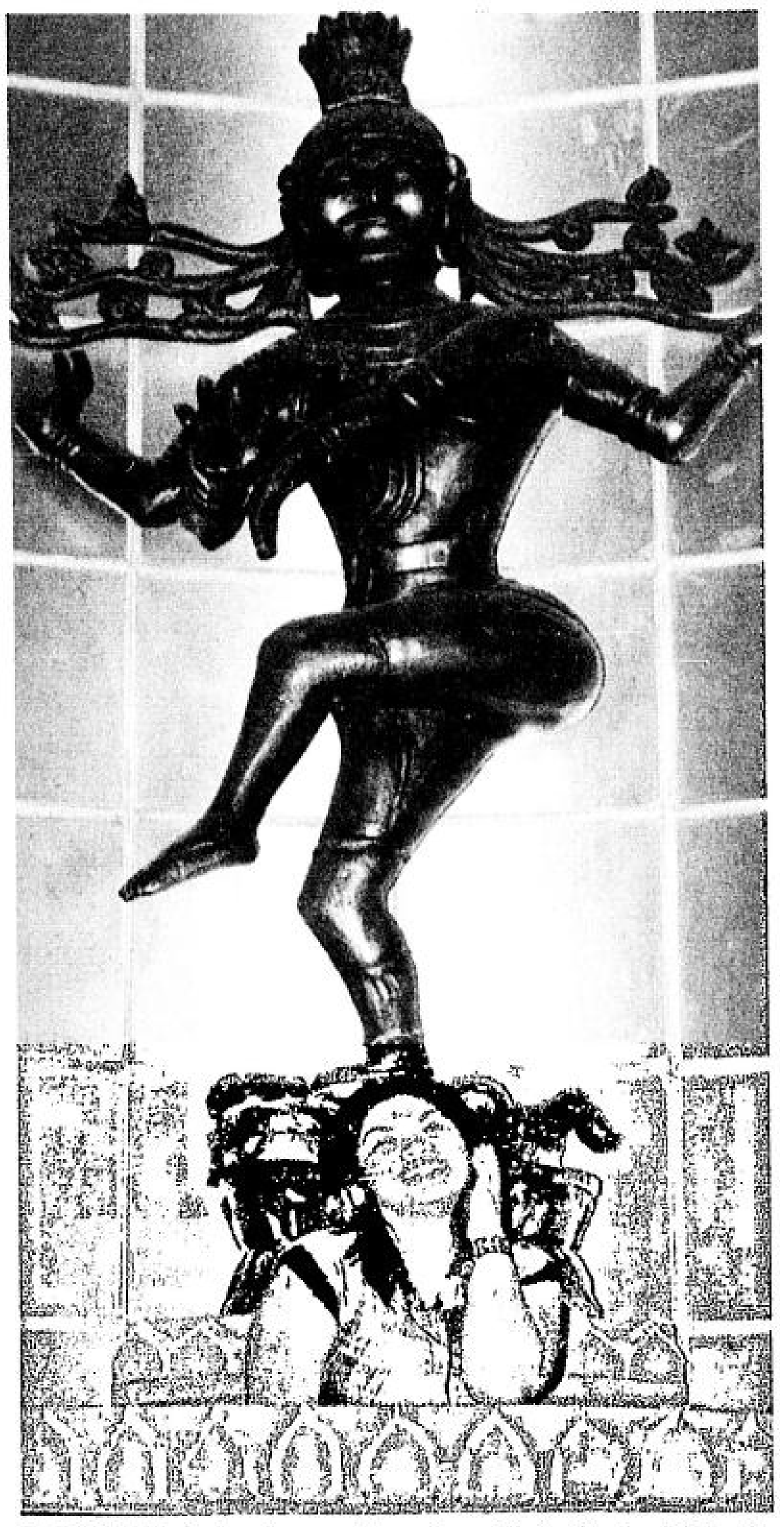
You still want to lose weight. Fine. Do it—but do it for yourself. Don't do it for some guy who isn't even worth the effort. Don't do it just to fit the norms of this shallow society.

We at 2bU! have gotten sick of this obsession. You have to be thin to have fun? Or to wear great clothes? Or to have men falling all over your feet? Nope. Definitely not. Confidence and being comfortable with one's body—not starvation—are what it takes to be stunning.

Enter the three beauties. Ma. Carmela "Cai" Cuasay and Marjorie Salazar Manzanilla, both 18 and both liberal arts students from the University of Asia & the Pacific, and Berna Marie Cabalquinto, 19, an A.B. Economics major from the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.

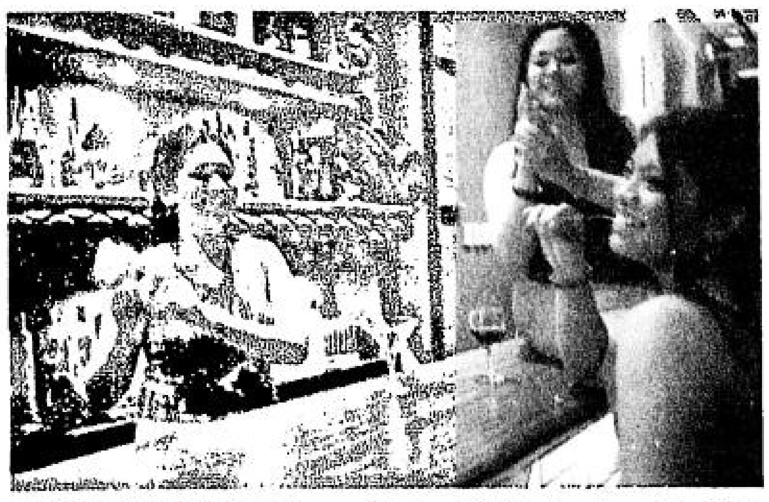
They made Buddha Bar their playground one afternoon as they preened and posed and flirted with the camera. Here they show you what it means to be plus-sized and beautiful.

And the next time you see someone trying to kill herself by dieting, say, "Honey, you don't have to be reed thin to be absolutely gorgeous."



DJ DIVA. Cai deejays her way in an Issey Miyake-inspired Criselda Lontok wrinkled top.

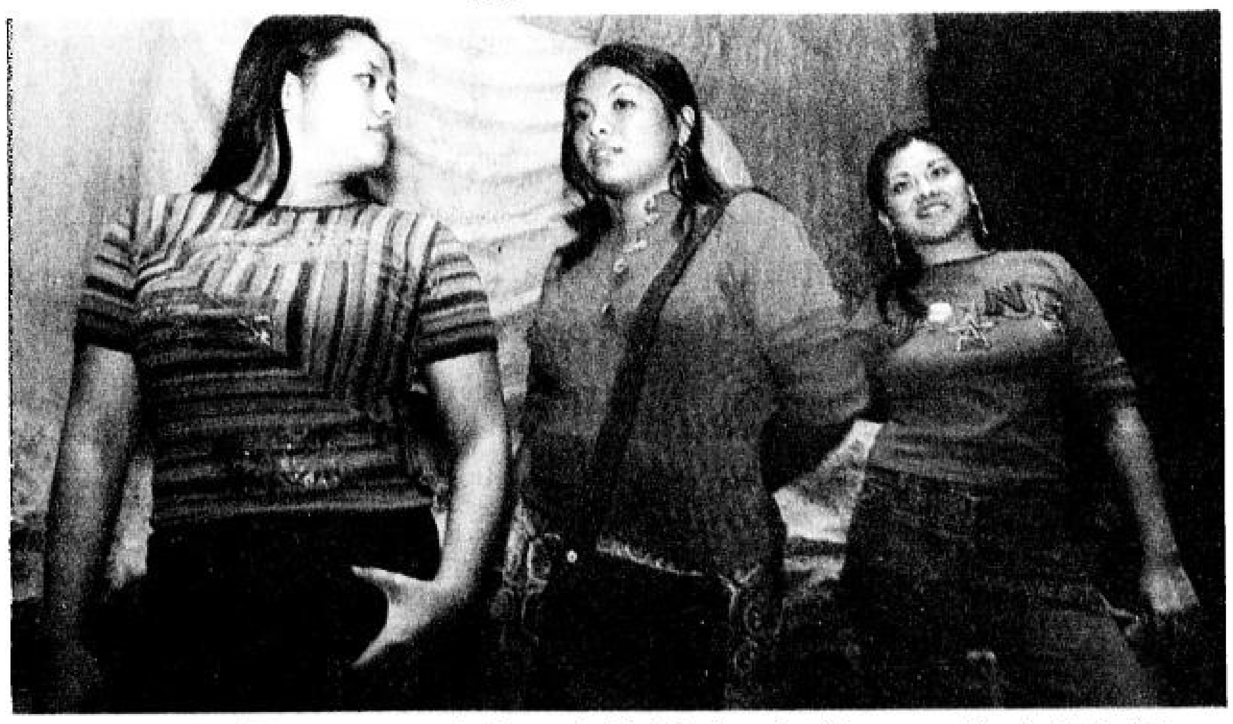
SPRING FEVER. Marjorie in a pink Luna by Pia Regala-Hebron dress and Criselda Lontok shawl with floral appliques. Bag from Bazaar de Christian Lacroix



SHAKE THAT BOOTY. Berna, Marj and Cai having fun at Buddha Bar.

VICTORIA'S COURT. Ruffles by Rajo Laurel, gold top by Criselda Lontok, Rustan's Ladies Department

SHALLOW HAL WANTS A GAL. Marjorie in a Greek-stylized Luna shawl



RED LANE. Marj and Berna wear tops by Bazaar de Christian Lacroix. Cai wears red top by Leslie Fay. Bags from Bazaar de Christian Lacroix

Uncovering the truth behind urban legends

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

A company reportedly used genetically engineered chicken—meatier but with shrunken bones, no eyes or beak, no feathers and no feet

HEARD the story about worms in your burgers? How about spider eggs in bubble gum resulting in spider webs growing out of your ears [illegible]ose at night?

We've heard different urban legends, like the ghost stories our classmates back in grade school used to tell us. Now, with the advent of text messaging and e-mail, spreading the news about "dangerous ingredients in your food" has become as easy as pie (no pun intended).

2bU! dug up some of those pesky food urban legends to try to set the record straight, and let you know why a trip to McDonald's is better than say, a trip to an unknown Oriental restaurant (unless rats are okay with you).

Rumor: McDonald's/Jollibee hamburger patties are made of worms. How many times have we heard this one? Sometimes the worms become roaches, or roaches' eggs, but the message is the same—what's supposed to be beef is actually something you wouldn't even touch (unless you like fishing).

Fact: The issue got too hot in the United States that McDonald's felt the need to deny the whole thing. They released a statement published in Time magazine that they couldn't possibly afford to mix worms into their meat, simply because a patty costs $1.50 a pound, while a bag of worms sells for $6. Roaches in burgers is an entirely different thing. But unless your patty has become as crunchy as chips, well... It's probably roach-free.

Rumor: Kentucky Fried Chicken uses genetically engineered birds. An e-mail said the University of New Hampshire looked into the company's decision to be known simply as KFC. This was supposedly found to be related to the company's use of genetically engineered chicken—shrunken bones, more meat, no eyes or beak, no feathers, no feet—that were being given nutrient-rich feed by tubes. The study allegedly found that the government ordered Kentucky to stop using "chicken" in its company name since it was no longer using normal fowls.

Fact: Can you say "We do chicken right"? The reason behind the name change isn't chicken. It was actually "fried" that the company felt was no longer appropriate. KFC was doing chicken many different ways—from rotisserie to roasted. As for the chicken freaks, KFC got its chicken wholesale from a poultry farm. They got 'em dressed and simply stored them in freezers.

Rumor: *Siopao* in Quiapo is made of cat meat while hotdogs are made of worms and real dogs.

Fact: Some people say there really is a "*siomeow*," but how do you explain *bola-bola* and *asado*? As for the hotdog, although it is made of various types of meat, companies wouldn't go out of their way to chop up a wandering mutt. Worms? Read the McDonald's issue above.

Rumor: Did you get this message? "Hi. My name is Jeffrey Newieb. I am a marketing analyst for M&Ms chocolate candies based in Hershey, Pennsylvania. As the year 2000 approaches, we want to be the candy of the millennium. As you may already know, the Roman numeral for Y2K is MM. We are asking you to pass this e-mail to five friends. Our tracking device is calculating how many e-mails you send out. Every time it reaches 2000 people you will receive a free case (100 individual, 5-g packs) of delicious M&M candies. That means the more people it reaches, the more candy you're going to get. Mmmmm... Yummy M&Ms for the year 2000!"

Fact: Remember "Win a Nokia 3310 if you forward this e-mail"? You cannot track down e-mail that way (unless you have all the time in the world)! M&M's are manufactured by the M&M/Mars company in Hackettstown, New Jersey. They make Hershey chocolates in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Rumor: Rats are usually used as substitute for chicken. An old lady was eating a pita from KFC (I am beginning to feel bad for The Colonel) when she noticed teeth sticking out of the bread. When she opened the pita, she saw a fried rat between the lettuce and tomato. She sued the company for a large amount of money.

Fact: Someone's been watching a lot the "Survivor" television series. Although the participants got a kick out of skewered rats (let's not forget Shrek), the tale is a complete hoax. Sometimes the story's setting is changed—the woman was eating by candlelight and couldn't see well so she thought she was eating chicken. An article in the Wall Street Journal in May 1991 did point out that there was a Chinese restaurant that served rats. The Guangzho Chinese Eatery's owner, Zhang Guoxum, said braised rats were rich in 17 amino acids, Vitamin E and calcium. Just don't eat too much, he said, as that would give you a nosebleed.

Rumor: Bubble Yum bubble gum, the first ever soft and really chewy gum, has spider eggs/legs/webs in it. A young girl once ate the gum and woke up with her face covered with spider webs.

Fact: The gum may be as gooey as, say, spider eggs, but this story is totally false. The rumor started when Bubble Yum sales were really hitting the roof. It forced the company to spend $100,000 to refute the story. Full-page ads were placed in 50 different newspapers in the United States, and other media were also used.

Rumor: Coke can be a birth control tool as it kills the sperm. After intercourse, a woman can shake a bottle of warm coke and release its contents into her organ to kill the sperm.

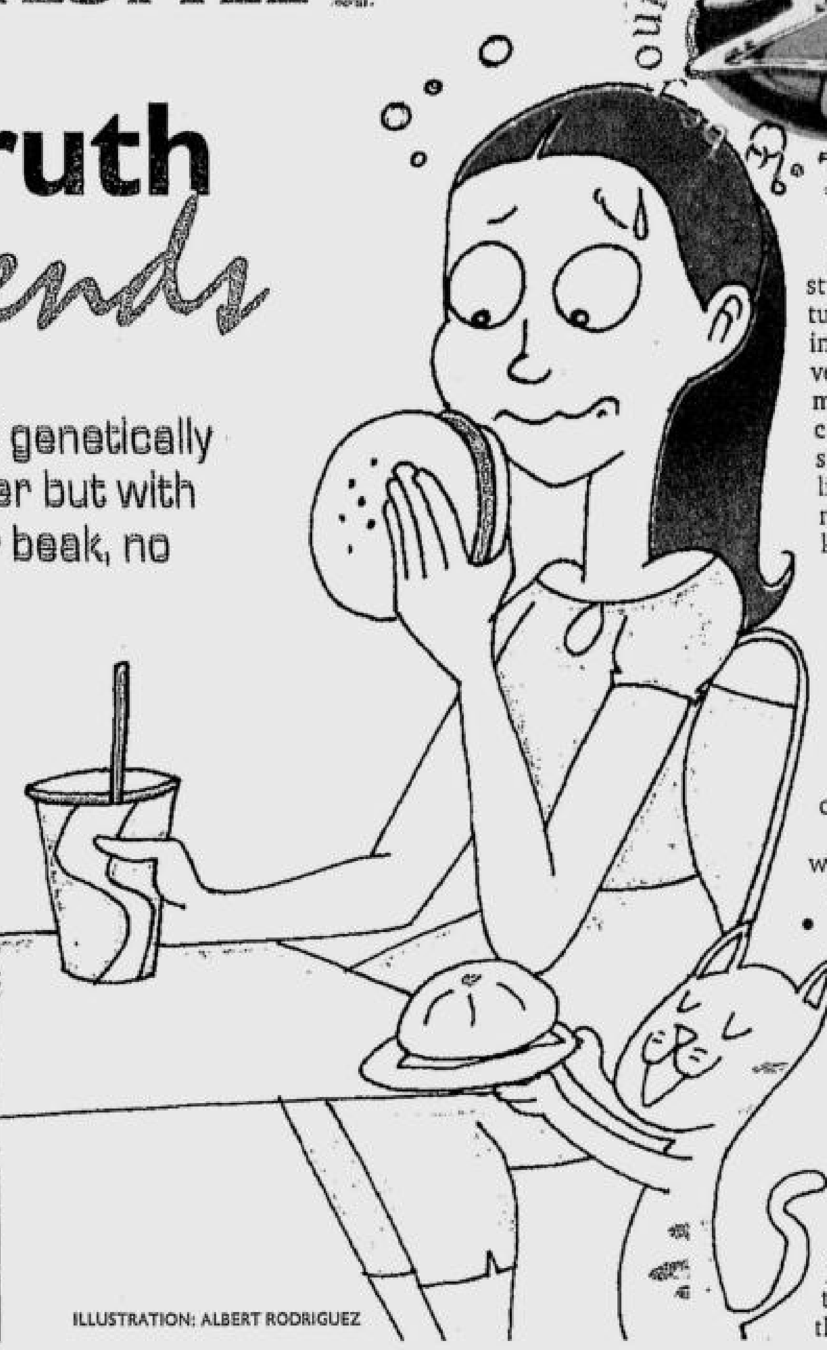


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Fact: Can we say "gross"? Even though studies have shown that sperm in a test tube were killed when Coke was poured into it, the method was found to be not very effective. Sperm cells are fast swimmers and by the time you give yourself a carbonated wash—if you believe the story—they will be beyond reach. A more likely consequence is the sugars in Coke may result in yeast development and who knows what other infections.

Rumors of unusual delicacies in other parts of the world may be true, though, like the following:

- Papua New Guinea: *Sago* worms
- Hong Kong: Monkey brains
- Africa: Blood from livestock, crickets, clay
- Mediterranean: Sheep's head (the whole thing, eyes included), cicada larvae
- France: Camel's feet, brains
- Sardinia: Maggot-cheese (cheese wrapped in cloth is left outside so flies can lay their eggs on them and is untouched until the maggots appear)
- China: Drunken shrimp, rats, bear paws, tiger's testicles, jelled blood, pork uterus, snake wine
- Indonesia: Bats (preferably smoked)
- England: Blood pudding
- Some parts of Asia: Bull's penis
- Italy: Honey ants (honey is injected into the ants' abdomens until they swell up and are as big as the ants themselves)

Matches not made in culinary heaven

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

Eating the same uninteresting thing with a stretch and a yawn? Who says you have to stick to the usual fare, no matter how blah it has become? These people have enlivened their lives by developing a liking for strange food combinations that may boggle the minds of gourmets and gourmands.

I like my stomach tight with *kape* mixed to *kanin* for breakfast.—**Joseph, 22**

I'm so fixated on *isaw ng manok* and any chocolate flavored ice cream for my *merienda*.—**Starlet, 15**

Nilalagyan ko ng fruit cocktail *ang ginatan ni* mommy. *Lagi kasing bilo-bilo eh*.—**Tutay, 12**

I am famous for my appetite for rice with spaghetti, and I seem to turn people off when they see me devour it.—**Renz, 22**

Give me *mangga* and *suka* and I won't need any stodgy meal.—**Lilibeth, 22**

Not so unusual, I guess. *Champorado* and *tuyo*.—**Christian, 25**

There's nothing to match my appetite for this—Magnolia Chocolait while having *bulalo* for a meal, *kahit ano pang sabihin nila*.—**Buneknek, 22**

I share Engracia's (of Alicia) passion for *chicharon* and ice cream. I found out we both loved them to distraction. I think she's my kismet.—**Butchoy, 25**

Me *naman*, I get too much pleasure from just munching *castañas* while having a papaya shake... Suits me down to the ground.—**Wangwang,22**

I thaw and become unusually friendly [when] chewing pickles dipped in any *palaman*. *Pinaka*-foreign, peanut butter. *Chika lang nang chika* while [eating].—**Osang, 23**

I don't like ketchup for chicken. Fried or roasted, it must be *suka*. *Talaba o tahong, 'yun ang me* ketchup.—**Sheena, 18**

Mahirap lang kami, kanin and *toyo*. *Anak ko nga, mangga at kape*.—**Mang Dolor, 42**

I was intrigued when [I saw] my relatives fill their sandwich with *pansit*. Then I thought, why not a spag sandwich? Okay *naman siya*.—**Guaping, 23**

I always crave French fries and rice for lunch. [*Balato*] *na lang sa* sister *ko 'yung* chicken *'pag* combo meal *sa* Mcdo.—**Bheng, 24**

I so [have a taste] for Del Monte sweet corn and pineapple chunks at the same time.—**Makiko, 21**

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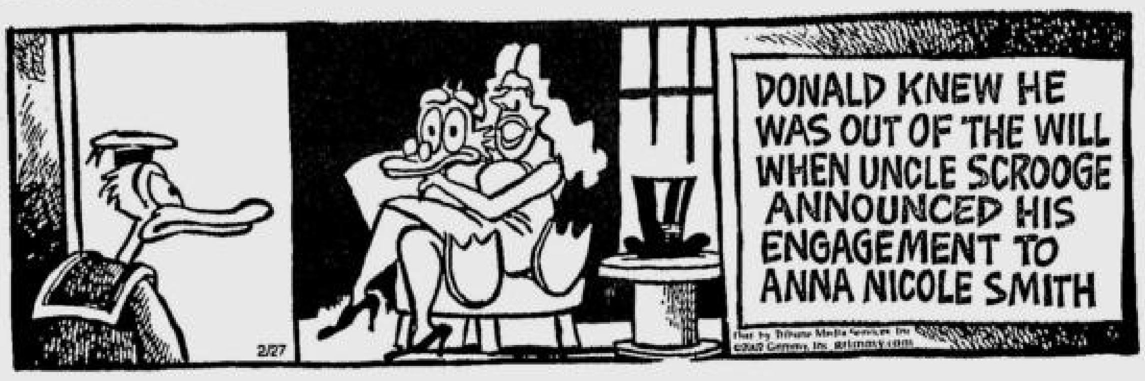
COMICRelief

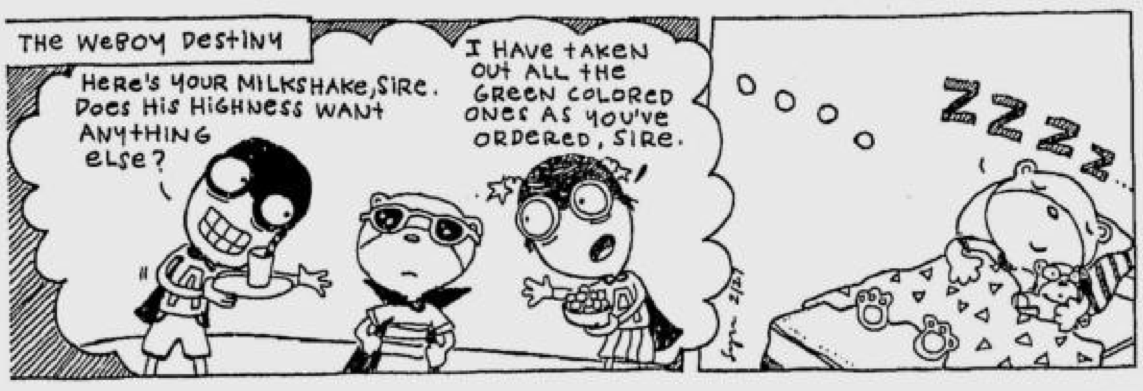
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DONALD KNEW HE WAS OUT OF THE WILL WHEN UNCLE SCROOGE ANNOUNCED HIS ENGAGEMENT TO ANNA NICOLE SMITH
2/27

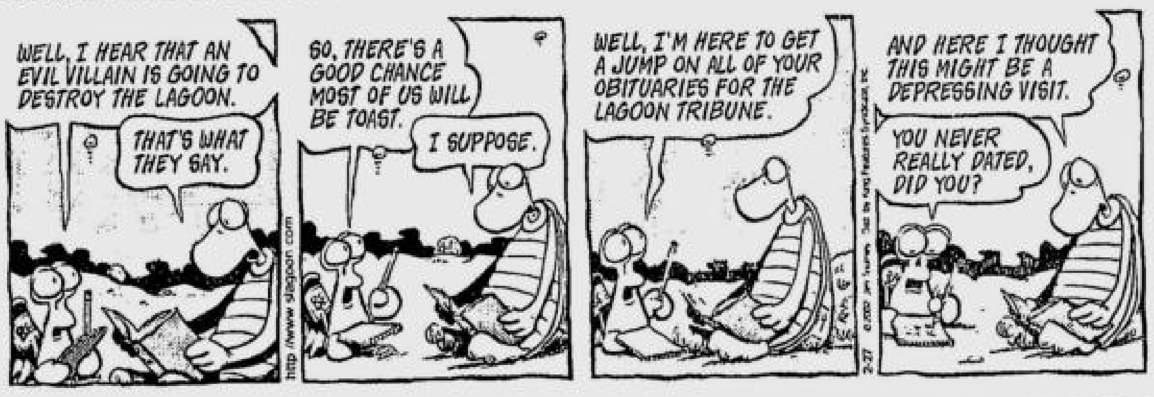
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THE WEBOY DESTINY
Here's YOUR MILKSHAKE, SIRE. Does His HIGHNESS WANT ANYTHING else?
I HAVE tAKEN OUT ALL tHE GREEN COLORED ONES AS YOU'VE ORDERED, SIRE.
ZZZZ...

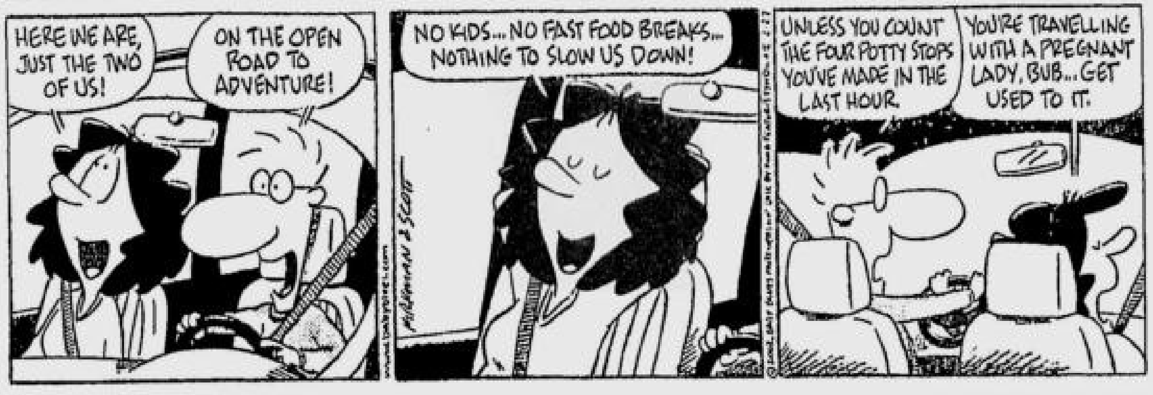
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, I HEAR THAT AN EVIL VILLAIN IS GOING TO DESTROY THE LAGOON.
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
SO, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE MOST OF US WILL BE TOAST.
I SUPPOSE.
WELL, I'M HERE TO GET A JUMP ON ALL OF YOUR OBITUARIES FOR THE LAGOON TRIBUNE.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A DEPRESSING VISIT.
YOU NEVER REALLY DATED, DID YOU?

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE WE ARE, JUST THE TWO OF US!
ON THE OPEN ROAD TO ADVENTURE!
NO KIDS... NO FAST FOOD BREAKS... NOTHING TO SLOW US DOWN!
UNLESS YOU COUNT THE FOUR POTTY STOPS YOU'VE MADE IN THE LAST HOUR.
YOU'RE TRAVELLING WITH A PREGNANT LADY, BUB... GET USED TO IT.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Taylor, Joanne Woodward, Ralph Nader, Chelsea Clinton

Happy Birthday: You will be lucky in business and insightful when it comes to finding solutions to other people's problems this year. You will be fortunate enough to come into secret information that will help you get ahead. Your numbers are 1, 5, 12, 21, 28, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become too chummy with someone you know through work. You will be disappointed if this person doesn't respond in the way you were expecting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Let yourself go and take on creative projects that you may have been afraid to attempt in the past. It's time to move forward with regard to your dreams, hopes and wishes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let events happening in your personal or home life magnify. If you limit yourself you will have regrets later on.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may like to spend time in the comfort of your own home but today you should get out with friends and take part in some other activities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work by yourself and at your own speed. Someone influential may try to hold you back. Prepare to travel if necessary in order to complete what you have set out to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will want to express yourself today. Don't hold back. It is best to say what's on your mind and let others respond in whatever way they see fit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems while traveling or dealing with authority figures can be expected. Be sure to have all your documentation in order before you set out today. Someone may have a hidden agenda that you don't know about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make a difference today if you get involved in an organization that helps the underprivileged. You are likely to meet someone special if you attend events that are meaningful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Watch what you say. Someone may just use your words against you. Emotional matters will surface if you try to skirt issues. Be honest and don't let anyone limit your freedom.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You sho[illegible]volved in talks with someone who challenges you mentally. You will enjoy the interaction. You have so much to offer and so much to gain if you just speak up.

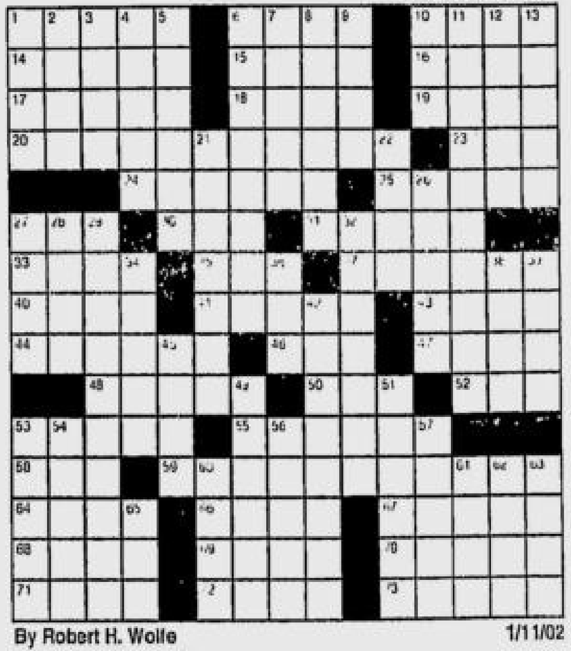
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Gambling will not pay off today. Financial limitations are apparent if you aren't careful with your cash. Hard work will bring in the cash—not a get-rich-quick-scheme.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional matters will develop today. Focus on children, creative projects or getting out and socializing with good friends. An older relative may be a burden. Help him or her as best you can and try to be patient.

Birthday Baby: You are very serious about your future. You put your work above everything else in life. You are well-organized and will not leave much room for error. You are dedicated and determined in all that you do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

1/11/02

ACROSS
1 1953 John Wayne movie
6 Couples
10 Marine color
14 WWW communication
15 Chinese leader?
16 Give money to
17 Carrying a Colt
18 Fills with wonder
19 Later, dude
20 Subatomic wrapper's task?
23 Trucker's truck
24 Beauty parlors
25 Twisted joint
27 Humpty, e.g.
30 AT&T part
31 Play part
33 Tulip-to-be
35 Former space station
37 Plants for tinting
40 Sad
41 Pathogenic bacteria
43 Eliel Saarinen's son
44 Catchphrase
46 __ culpa
47 Fast planes, for short
48 Snug retreats
50 Blast letters
52 Black or White
53 Coup group
55 Predilections
58 Springsteen's birthplace?
59 Subatomic pastry shop sight?
64 Banister
66 Taboo
67 Needle
68 Make eyes at
69 Long nail
70 Dine at home
71 Relax
72 Org.
73 Frock

DOWN
1 Miami team
2 Katz of "Hocus Pocus"
3 Appellation
4 Nutritional regimens
5 Overused
6 Wicked
7 Like a game needing O.T.
8 "The __ File"
9 Average
10 Away from the prow
11 Odd subatomic quality?
12 Up to
13 Saying
21 Component
22 Archibald of the NBA
26 Baseball teams
27 Wanes
28 Coastal bird
29 Subatomic manicure items?
32 Dry, red wine
34 Sire
36 CD add-on?
38 Comic Johnson
39 Sammy of baseball
42 Disappoints
45 Pronto letters
49 Bar accessories
51 Tried out
53 Panel member
54 Employment
56 Magnani and Paquin
57 Piece of asparagus
60 Machu Picchu honcho
61 Overdue
62 Fire-sale warning
63 Yearnings
65 Allow to

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	V	I	L	■	S	M	U	G	■	C	A	B	S
A	L	E	N	E	■	I	O	N	A	■	A	B	E	T
S	A	N	D	I	E	G	O	A	T	H	L	E	T	E
A	N	T	I	■	I	N	D	■	■	E	L	L	E	N
■	■	■	C	A	R	E	■	A	G	R	A	■	■	■
■	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	B	O	O	S	T	E	R
M	O	D	E	M	■	■	E	L	A	N	■	H	I	E
A	W	E	D	■	M	A	N	E	T	■	C	E	D	E
R	E	L	■	D	A	R	T	■	■	B	O	R	E	D
C	R	E	D	I	T	C	A	R	D	U	S	E	R	■
■	■	■	A	N	T	S	■	O	A	S	T	■	■	■
S	E	N	N	A	■	■	O	U	T	■	E	R	T	E
K	N	I	G	H	T	S	S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N
A	O	N	E	■	E	A	S	E	■	A	L	O	U	D
T	S	A	R	■	E	G	A	D	■	P	O	T	T	S

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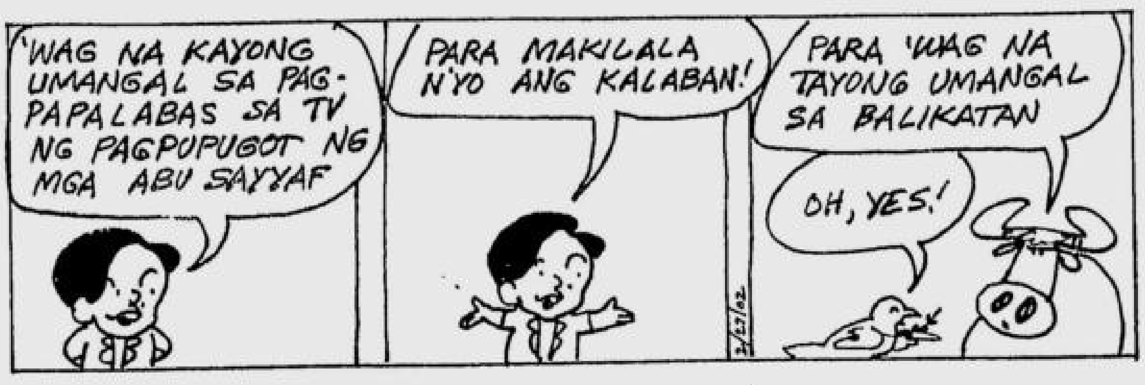
1/11/02

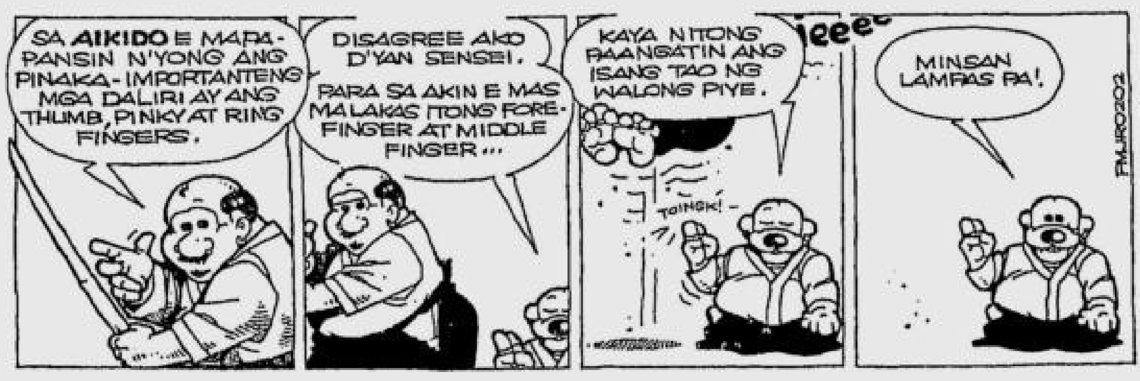
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'WAG NA KAYONG UMANGAL SA PAG-PAPALABAS SA TV NG PAGPUPUGOT NG MGA ABU SAYYAF
PARA MAKILALA N'YO ANG KALABAN!
PARA 'WAG NA TAYONG UMANGAL SA BALIKATAN
OH, YES!
2/27/02

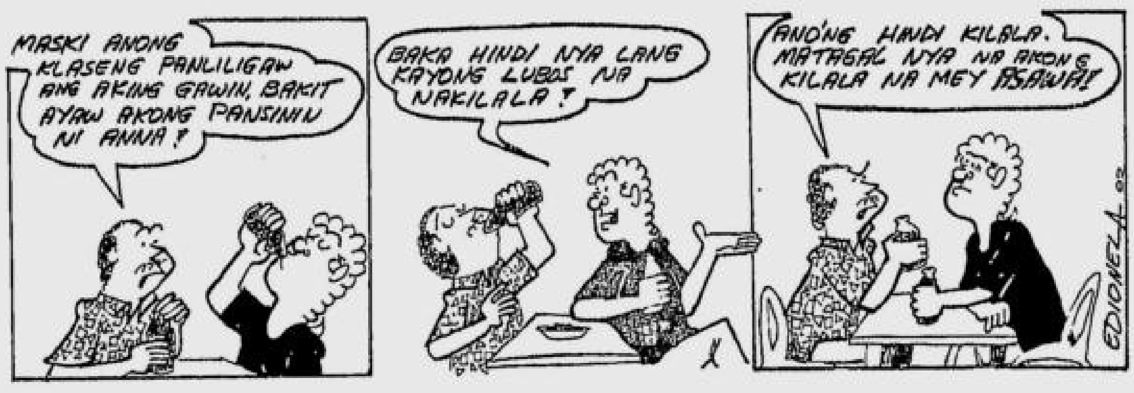
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA AIKIDO E MAPA-PANSIN N'YONG ANG PINAKA-IMPORTANTENG MGA DALIRI AY ANG THUMB, PINKY AT RING FINGERS.
DISAGREE AKO D'YAN SENSEI.
PARA SA AKIN E MAS MALAKAS ITONG FORE-FINGER AT MIDDLE FINGER...
KAYA NITONG PAANGATIN ANG ISANG TAO NG WALONG PIYE.
ieeee
TOINGK!
MINSAN LAMPAS PA!
PMJR0202

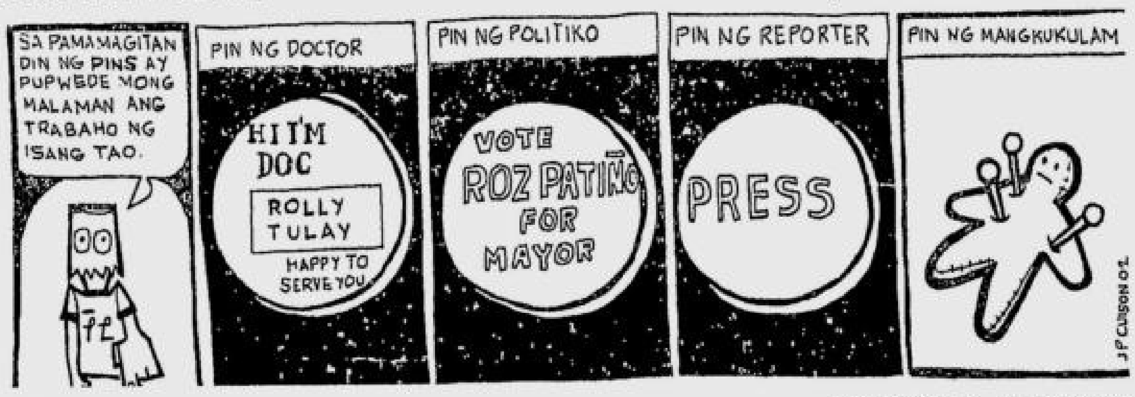
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MASKI ANONG KLASENG PANLILIGAW ANG AKING GAWIN, BAKIT AYAW AKONG PANSININ NI ANNA?
BAKA HINDI NYA LANG KAYONG LUBOS NA NAKILALA?
ANO'NG HINDI KILALA. MATAGAL NYA NA AKONG KILALA NA MEY ASAWA!
EDIONELA 02

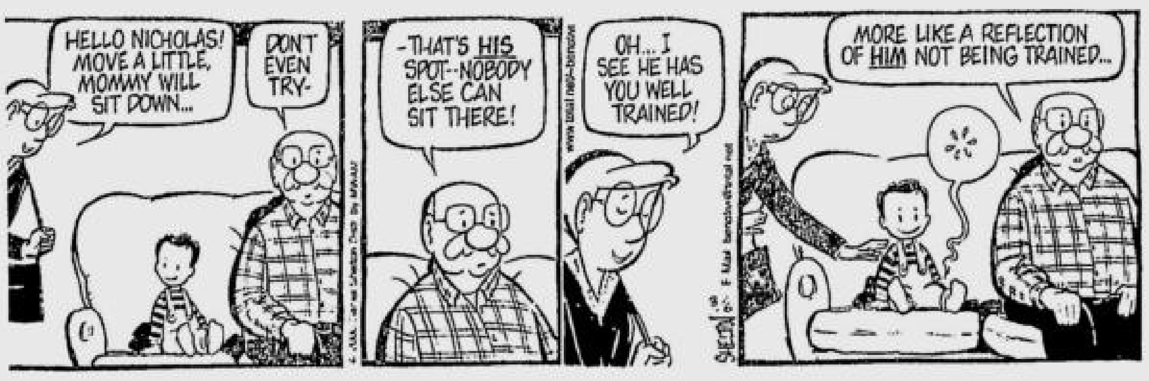
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


SA PAMAMAGITAN DIN NG PINS AY PUPWEDE MONG MALAMAN ANG TRABAHO NG ISANG TAO.
PIN NG DOCTOR
HI I'M DOC
ROLLY TULAY
HAPPY TO SERVE YOU
PIN NG POLITIKO
VOTE ROZ PATIÑO FOR MAYOR
PIN NG REPORTER
PRESS
PIN NG MANGKUKULAM
JP CUISON 02

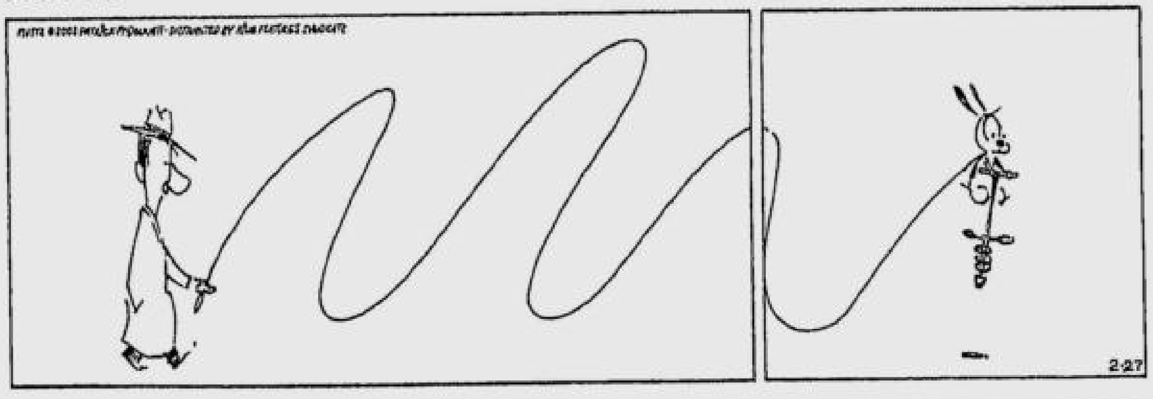
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO NICHOLAS! MOVE A LITTLE, MOMMY WILL SIT DOWN...
DON'T EVEN TRY-
-THAT'S HIS SPOT--NOBODY ELSE CAN SIT THERE!
OH... I SEE HE HAS YOU WELL TRAINED!
MORE LIKE A REFLECTION OF HIM NOT BEING TRAINED...

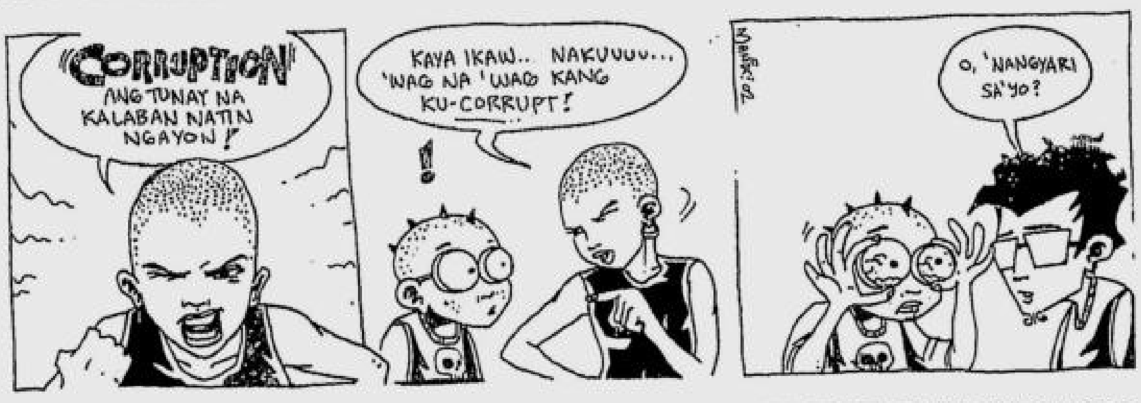
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



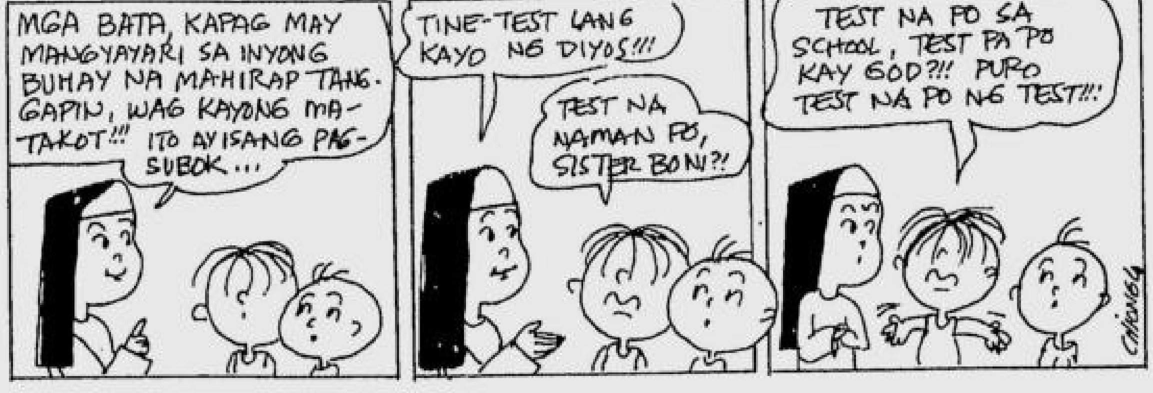
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


"CORRUPTION" ANG TUNAY NA KALABAN NATIN NGAYON!
!
KAYA IKAW.. NAKUUUU... 'WAG NA 'WAG KANG KU-CORRUPT!
O, 'NANGYARI SA'YO?

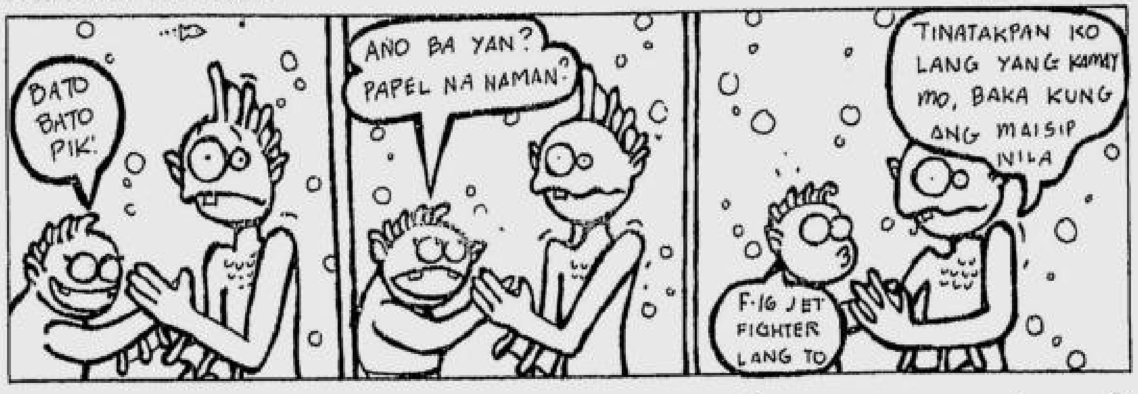
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA BATA, KAPAG MAY MANGYAYARI SA INYONG BUHAY NA MAHIRAP TANG-GAPIN, WAG KAYONG MA-TAKOT!!! ITO AY ISANG PAG-SUBOK...
TINE-TEST LANG KAYO NG DIYOS!!!
TEST NA NAMAN PO, SISTER BONI?!
TEST NA PO SA SCHOOL, TEST PA PO KAY GOD?!! PURO TEST NA PO NG TEST!!!
CHIONGLO

CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


BATO BATO PIK!
ANO BA YAN? PAPEL NA NAMAN?
TINATAKPAN KO LANG YANG KAMAY MO, BAKA KUNG ANG MAISIP NILA
F-16 JET FIGHTER LANG TO

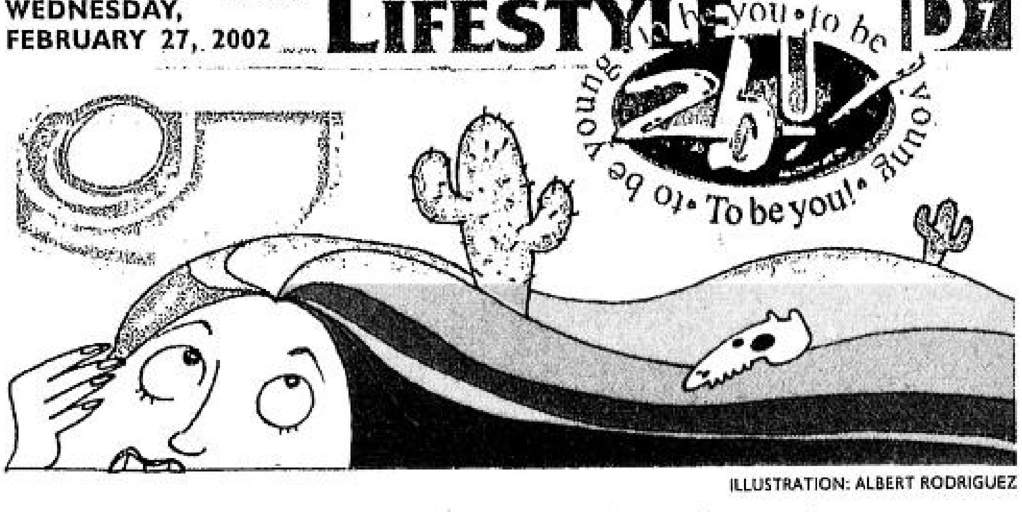
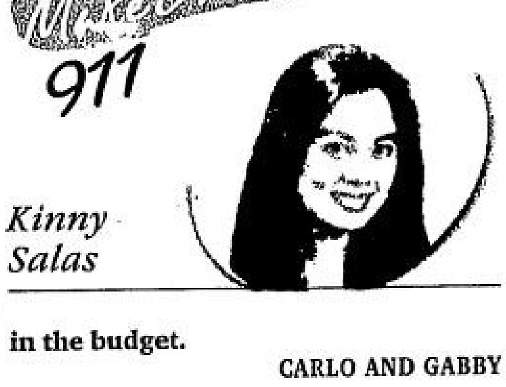

2bU!
to be you • to be young • to be you! •

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How to deal with dry hair



Kinny Salas

MY anti-residue shampoo was great for the first month. My hair was never so shiny, manageable and bouncy. After I finished the first bottle and stocked up my bathroom cabinets, it started failing me. Now my hair is dry and breaks off. What went wrong? I can't throw the ones I already bought because they are so expensive. Can I write the manufacturers and request for a refund?

NICOLE

Anti-residue shampoos are used for two weeks maximum. Its purpose is to remove all the build-up caused by your favorite shampoo, conditioner and other hair products so your hair will no longer be weighed down. After two weeks, you're supposed to use your favorite hair products again and they would have performed as great as they used to.

The reason for the two-week maximum is that the shampoo is pretty strong to enable it to wipe out build-up. If, however, there is no more build-up to deal with, the shampoo will start stripping your hair of its natural moisture.

Do not throw or give away the stock you have acquired from the store because you will need them as soon as your regular hair products begin to fail you again due to new build-up. Other factors that cause build-up on hair are hard water and sudden rise in humidity (oil build-up).

I WANT a workout that my husband and I can do together. Carlo and I still have the excess weight from the holidays and my twins are 5 months old, so I have the extra weight from that, too. We are both very athletic but childbirth has broken my momentum. We are both busy with our own careers as well, so our qualifications are: A workout we can both do; something that burns fat (aerobic), tones muscle, builds strengths, flexibility and shapes our body (we want to be lean, not bulky); high energy—Pilates, regular aerobics and weight training are boring, lacking and takes too long just lining up for machines. We want all our qualifications met in 90 minutes max. But please, nothing that requires expensive gear. The twins are priority in the budget.

CARLO AND GABBY

I was going to suggest ballroom dancing, but this may be a bit costly in the long run. The socializing required will also make you easily exceed your 90-minute mark. Athletes feel awkward a lot of times with the different steps and end up annoyed and irritated.

There are two other options that fit your criteria. Tae-bo and/or taekwondo is inexpensive, aerobic, relatively quick, tones muscles, builds strength and hones discipline.

However, some gynecologists discourage tae-bo for women as it may be too high impact for some and harmful for the ovaries. Check with your doctor first, especially that you only had the twins recently.

Taekwondo seems like the safest bet. A lot of people do this for exercise and they make it clear to the instructor that they are not in it to get promoted or to spar. People of all ages are active and quite toned and lean. I know someone in his 50s who is so solid just doing this twice to thrice a week.

I have consulted with an instructor named Carlo Arafiles (my friend's and some relatives' taekwondo instructor). He teaches at Discovery Spa, Discovery Center, 4/F ADB Avenue, Pasig City. Call him at (0917) 375-1482. There are different rates for members and nonmembers. Arafiles also gives private lessons. You may want to ask some friends or relatives to join.

'For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805

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Tatalon, Quezon City
Oliver Sansano
Makati City
Laura Sofia Berganio
Las Piñas City
Necitas Dumo
Tatalon, Quezon City
Elizabeth Dumo
Bauang, La Union

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Tondo, Manila
Jose Dellomos
Las Piñas City
Marilou Babagay
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Makati City
Clarita Galve
Las Piñas City
Olivia Cabillan
Marikina City
Ely Lantin
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Annabelle Dominguez
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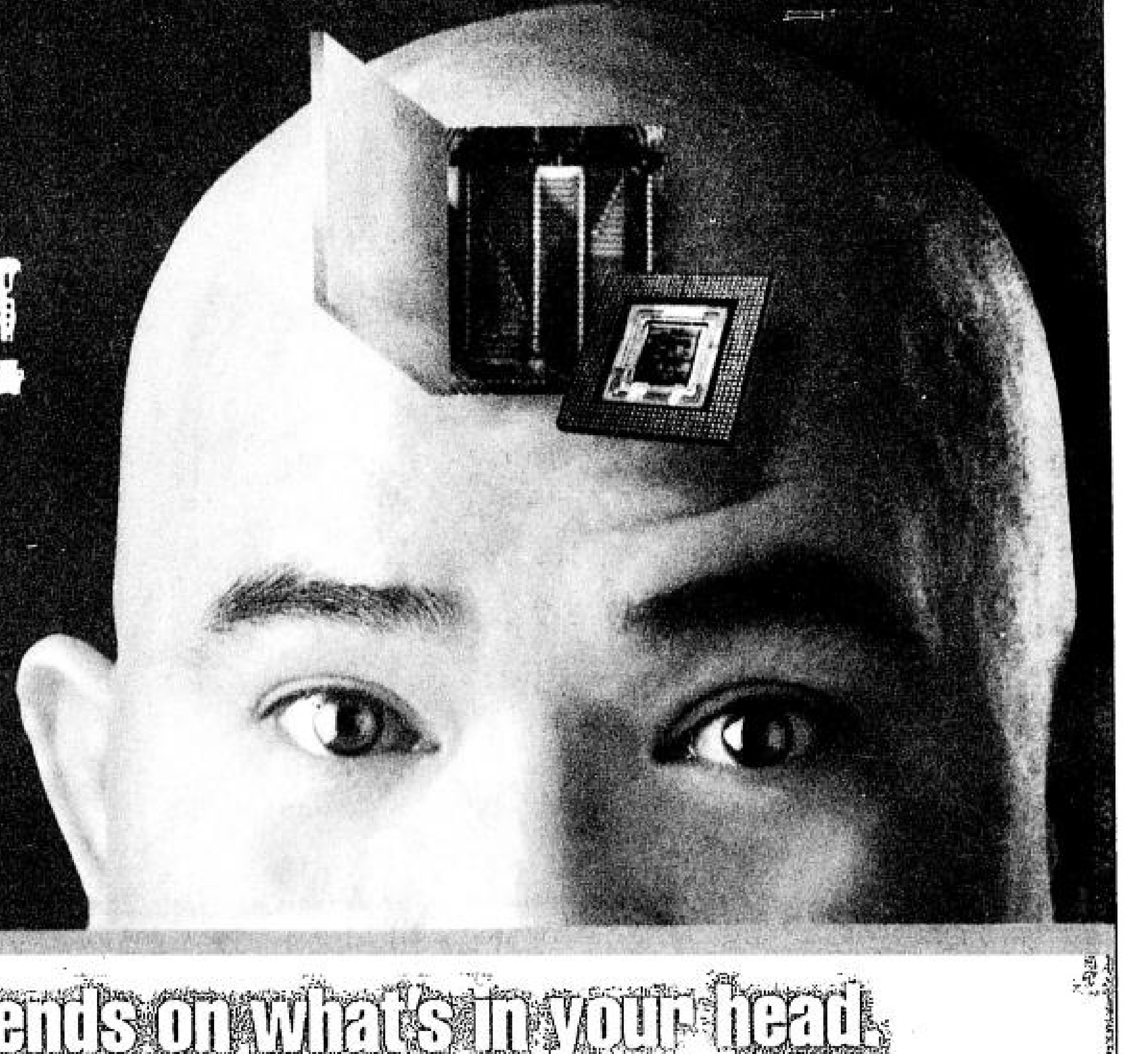

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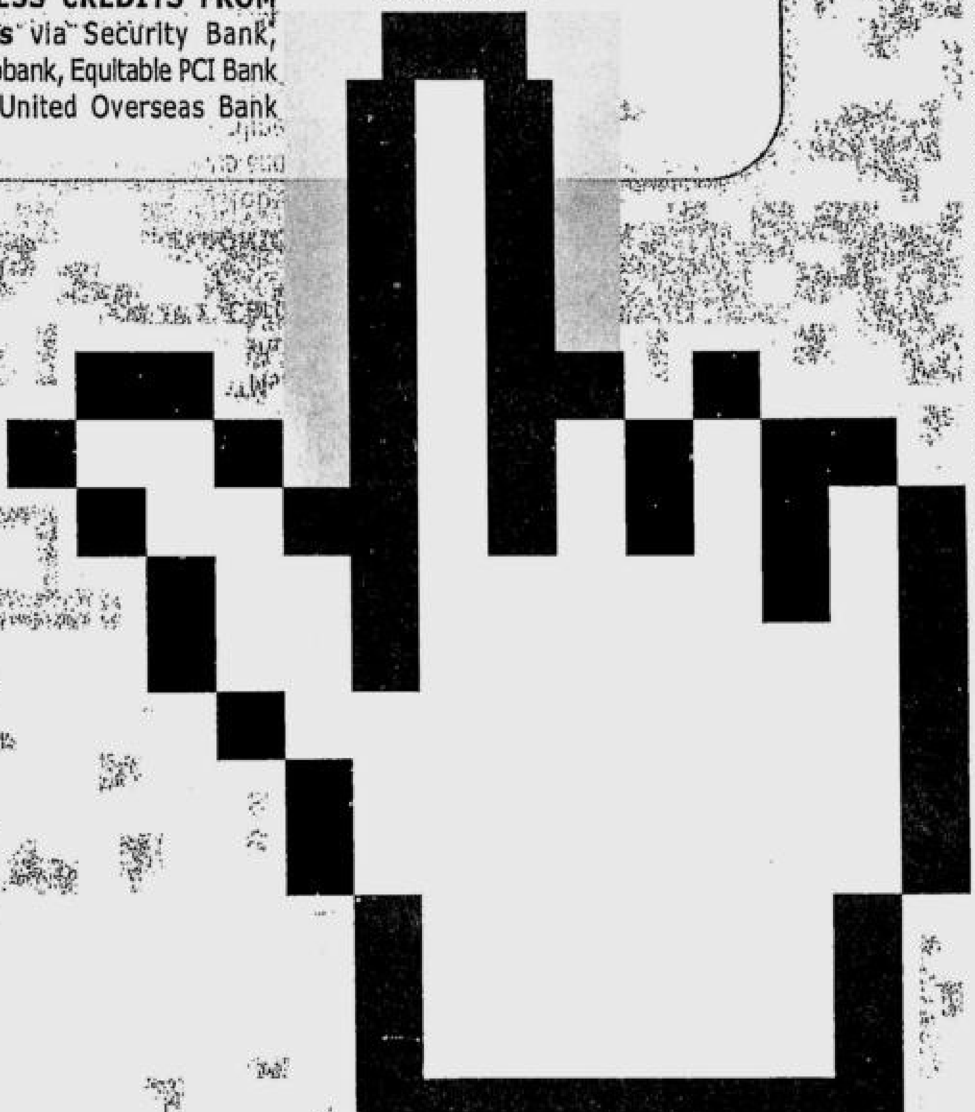

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INQ7.net An INQUIRER and GMA Network Company

Year ONE

Lita Pascual Account Manager
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa Editor

Making interactivity work

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

IN THE WAKE of the dotcom crash, economic difficulties and a world forever changed by the Sept. 11 tragedy, how do you make a website indispensable to the lives of Filipinos?

INQ7 Interactive Inc. has responded to that challenge by quickly evolving and introducing innovations that address the changing needs of Internet users. A partnership between the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc., INQ7 was formally launched on Feb. 27, 2001.

As the leading Philippine news website, INQ7.net at www.inq7.net has succeeded in complementing the content and credibility of INQUIRER and GMA with the Internet's global reach and interactivity.

GOZON

"INQ7's strength is the firm commitment of the two partners," said Felipe L. Gozon, chair of INQ7. "We realize that the Internet is revolutionizing business processes and making a profound change in the lives of people. Through this partnership, we are able to draw upon the strengths of GMA and INQUIRER and reach out to a global audience."

Paolo Prieto, INQ7 president and CEO, said that the company has the opportunity to drive the growth of the Internet in the Philippines and make online services accessible to more Filipinos.

"From my experience in the United States, I saw how the Internet was really part of everybody's lives," Prieto shared. "Even though we are not an Internet service provider, INQ7 is encouraging more Filipinos to use the Web by providing the kind of up-to-the-minute information and services that they need."

Even prior to its formal launch, the company set the pace for online journalism in the Philippines with the introduction of up-to-the-minute breaking news and special sites providing in-depth coverage of the Estrada impeachment trial and Edsa II. By making news available anytime, anywhere, INQ7.net won the loyalty of users and allowed Filipinos from all over the Philippines and around the world to collectively experience these historic events.

The company, however, has not rested on its laurels by thinking that generating page views is the be-all and end-all of an Internet company. Instead, it has encouraged visitors to make the site the venue for thriving online communities with interactive features such as discussion boards and mobile services, as well as user-generated sites such as the YOU portal for the youth. INQ7 also answers the need of Filipinos for services such as e-commerce, online classifieds and job postings.

According to Prieto, this year would be one of consolidation for INQ7. He said that the public would see even better integration of the content and services from INQ7's mother companies and strategic partners.

"One of the key factors to our success will be the integration of both partners (INQUIRER and GMA). We will see the integration of different media — print, TV and radio — and the Web. There are a lot of synergies that haven't been tapped yet and we're working on that," Prieto said.

Gozon added that both partners realize that building an Internet business takes time. He said that while the company is a business, its goal is not to just generate revenue but to perform a public service.

"As an emerging news medium, the Internet empowers Filipinos by making vital information immediately available. INQ7 will continue to do its share in enhancing public awareness on important issues by delivering unbiased and accurate news. We will constantly strive to improve the delivery of our services and make these accessible to even more people," Gozon said.

Unlike the dotcoms that crashed and burned because they had no real business plan and overextended themselves financially, INQ7 has a strong foundation, Prieto said.

"That's the lesson everyone has learned from the experience of the US dotcoms. They expanded too fast and they weren't able to keep up financially," he pointed out.

During the dotcom boom that seems like a lifetime ago, start-ups attracted capital with almost nothing more to show

INTERACTIVE/E2

For more stories and photos,
log on to www.inq7.net/
specialfeatures/inq7yearone/

Managing the virtual with real business rules

PRIETO

JUST because you're dealing with the virtual doesn't mean you can ignore real-world rules.

For Paolo Prieto, president and CEO of INQ7 Interactive Inc., that's the lesson all Internet companies should learn from the failure of many dotcoms.

"They had a lot of expansion projects and had a lot of theories — and they incurred tremendous debts. They expanded too fast and they weren't able to keep up financially," Prieto said.

According to him, it's a matter of striking the right balance between excitement over the Internet's potential and a solid business foundation. Without a sustainable business plan, even the most promising ideas and inspiring dreams will lead you nowhere.

INQ7 is a business. It may differ from a traditional business such as a newspaper company, but in the end we still have revenues and expenses," he said.

Asked how different it is to manage an Internet company compared to a traditional business, Prieto replied: "In the beginning I thought that it would be very different, but there are more similarities than differences. It will take a little more time, however, to develop Internet businesses. Unlike other businesses that already have existing models, we have to be pioneers. So the key is to continue believing in the Internet but at the same time not overextend."

Prieto also strikes the right balance between work and play despite his busy schedule. Whenever he can find spare time, Prieto said that he takes out-of-town trips, adding that he likes water sports. He divulged that he has recently taken up wake boarding, which is similar to water skiing except that it makes use of a surfboard.

"It's very exhilarating. A good friend of mine introduced me to the sport," he said.

Prieto also enjoys playing golf, saying that he and his family play together often and that this is a good bonding experience for them.

As INQ7 marks its first anniversary, Prieto said that he is grateful to all the people and institutions that have made the company successful, particularly users from all over the world. He cited the strong partnership between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network and the efforts of the company's employees.

"Of course, I would also like to thank (founding INQ7 president and CEO) Dennis (Valdes), who really put it all together. If not for Dennis, INQ7 would still be an offshoot of the INQUIRER and wouldn't have the interactivity it offers today," Prieto said.

His "birthday wish" for INQ7?

"That more people will take a look at the site and appreciate it — and that INQ7.net will become a part of more people's lives."

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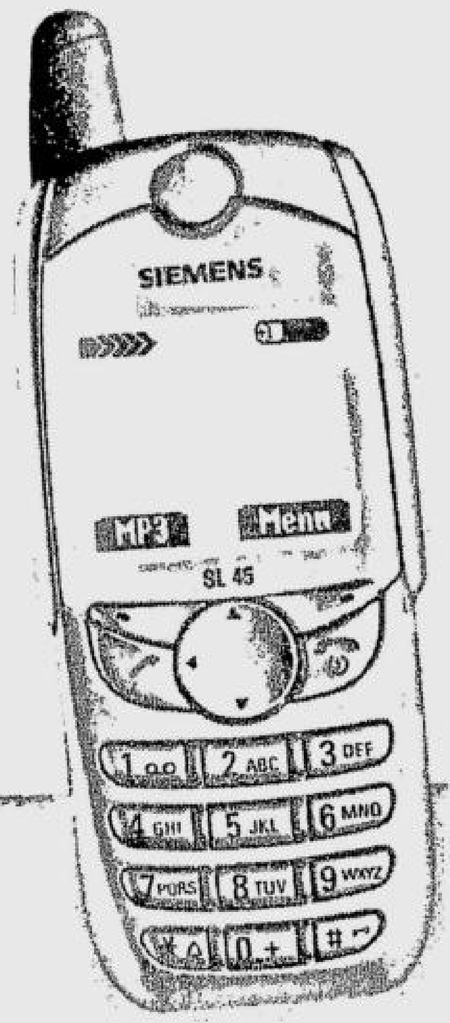

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News in an interactive and exciting medium

By Raquel Gomez

WE writers and journalists have yet to get a full grip on the emerging news medium — the Internet.

The reason is that journalism on the Internet tends to "sound" too technical or still too "novel" to some of us who have become comfortable doing news coverage the traditional way through print and broadcast.

Internet journalism, too, has just been recently established, and in a relatively quick period due to technology and a high demand for truthful and credible information on the Web.

That's mainly our concern as print and broadcast people who are still in the process of being shaped and influenced by this electronic information medium.

What about the big audience out there — those who digest the information provided by the traditional news media and are now getting hooked on the Web and all the different devices now used to access the news, such as cell phones, laptops, and PDAs (personal digital assistants)?

How would these people, long used to reading newspapers, listening to radio, or watching TV, gauge news credibility on the Internet?

"Internet journalism, at its most fundamental, is no different from that of traditional print or broadcast media," explained Getsy Selirio, editor in chief of INQ7.net, the country's most successful interactive news website put up by broadcast giant GMA 7 and the widely circulated broadsheet the INQUIRER.

She said INQ7.net, also referred to as a Web news portal, espouses the "same ethics and code of professionalism" of GMA and the INQUIRER, but news delivery is established by the "requirements of online technology."

"Our news reaches our viewers faster by offering minute-by-minute updates of political, business, regional and world news events," Selirio explained.

Online journalism, aside from being able to execute limitless pages, encourages people to form opinions and decisions faster, according to INQ7.net executive editor Leo Magno.

With Internet news, reader's interaction and autonomy are increased through the use of links to other stories, streaming video and audio, message boards, and e-mail.

"Online journalism's influence lies in its ability to foster communication among readers," said Javier Vicente Rufino, executive editor of INQ7.net.

"Watching TV or reading the paper essentially involves only two parties: the reader and the news source. In the online environment, readers can interact with other readers as part of the same media experience."

How do you establish credibility in online journalism? We all know the Internet is still an "uncontrolled" medium and a repository of hoax information.

"That's where the brand names of traditional media outlets comes in and it's one of the reasons news sites that are affiliated with traditional news outlets have stronger drawing power on the Internet, as readers use the brand name as a means of sorting the chaff from grain," Rufino said.

Two giant and credible news organizations, GMA 7 and the INQUIRER, back INQ7.net.

Selirio said INQ7.net's news stories are sourced from the parent organizations as well as internally, and are produced on a "24x7" basis.

"INQ7.net also showcases content from online partners, such as the top news and current affairs magazine Newsbreak, the fast-rising newspaper Cebu Daily News, and the DFNN Group, which helps us produce the personal finance site INQ7money," she added.

Content is the news portal's major advantage. "One cannot compare a no-name website's news with one which has established credibility already," Magno said.

"While the Internet promised everyone that you could be your own reporter, publisher and editor on the Web, nobody promised that you'd be taken seriously overnight. The INQUIRER and GMA 7 did not build their reputations overnight. The same rules apply on the Web," he pointed out.

Rufino added that false information is often exposed rather quickly on the Internet because of the "reactive and community-like" nature of the Web. If a reliable source of news doesn't agree with the facts of the report online, he or she can immediately post his or her opinion back to the news portal.

News "digestion" or recall on the Internet is a bit different from the traditional medium.

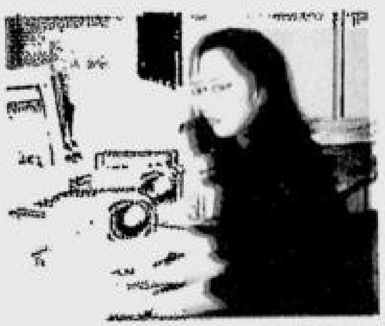
"With the Internet, you come out with the earliest stories first, then the story develops into a bigger one which, at the end of the day, is encapsulated in the newspaper version, which in turn also is placed on the Web," Magno said.

"So, while you get a blow-by-blow account of a developing story online, you get a recap at the end of the day in the paper — the same story which is also carried online at the end of the day," he said.

Online journalism offers innovation not found in other media forms. Speed in delivery and timeliness of news, accuracy in reporting, faster and crisper presentation of a developing story, blow-by-blow running accounts, archiving and documentation features, are some of these innovations.

Online news can also be easily accessed on a host of popular electronic devices such as workstations, kiosks, PDAs and cell phones.

The Internet news site also offers the dedicated service of providing information to groups of people of same nationalities who are based in other parts of the world. These people are hungry for information regarding their original home country. "Filipinos abroad care as much for this country as we here do. We serve as their bridge to what's happening in their home country," Selirio said.



INQ7 editor in chief Getsy Selirio

Online journalism won't replace the traditional medium of news in the immediate future.

The three editors of INQ7.net, who have spent careers in the traditional media, are one in saying that online journalism will complement the other news media.

"The Internet market continues to expand, but I do not think it would replace the traditional sources of news. Radio certainly didn't disappear when the television arrived," Selirio said.

"I would rather think of all these different media — old and new — as complementary devices toward a common goal, which is to become an authority when it comes to news," Magno said.

"In the future, I see all these disciplines (TV, print, radio and online news site) merging and journalists deploying information from integrated newsrooms over a wide variety of media, each complementing the other," Rufino said.

In the end, online journalism will continue to transform itself, just as the Web itself will continue to evolve and become an even more integral part of everyone's lives.

Making interactivity work . . .

From page E1

than a flashy name, an idea and a plan to go public. In effect, the initial public offering amounted to the dotcom's business plan. In other instances, the dotcom was "built-to-flip," meaning it was launched with the expectation that someone would eventually acquire the company.

"An IPO may be there in the future but it's not our main objective. We're in this for the long haul. We're going to be here as long as INQUIRER and GMA are there," Prieto said.

Prieto pointed out that in entering the partnership, both INQUIRER and GMA understood that the immediate goal was to lay the foundation for the near future, so that the company would be ready with the services thatwould bring in the revenue.

"We weren't after the quick buck. We had our eyes wide open. The first year actually exceeded our expectations. And even in these difficult times where other companies are experiencing massive layoffs and restructuring, we've streamlined but only minimally. We've become better, in spite of all adversities. Flexibility is going to be important. To reach our goals, the company is going to change and evolve, just as the Web is continuing to evolve," Prieto said.

He added that he believes that the revenue will soon come pouring in, noting that the Internet will ultimately prove doubters wrong.

"Particularly in media, the old principle that content is king is still true. Who are people going to gravitate to? The sites that offer the best content and services. We'll always have the best content with INQUIRER and GMA," he said.

INQ7.net has become the main online source of information for many Filipinos here and abroad. And just as the site has become part of the lives of many people, so too have its employees made their lives part of INQ7. Log on to www.inq7.net/specialfeatures/inq7yearone/ for some of the stories behind the news stories, as INQ7 employees share some of their most memorable moments.

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Last chance
Arnold tries to hold back

People dotcom

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

INTEL'S Andy Grove once said that the assets of a company go home every afternoon on two feet. Despite the high turnover rates and the cutthroat competition in companies engaged in the New Economy, people still matter.

"Our technology is not whiz-bang but I'm proud to have people around me who can do more with less — that's the dotcom spirit," said Robert B. Gantuangco, vice president and chief technology officer of INQ7 Interactive Inc. when asked what makes the company distinct.

INQ7 is the joint-venture online news delivery company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc. Though not a pure dotcom, the company operates in Internet time.

GANTUANGCO

Gantuangco pointed out that much of the technology used for the INQ7.net site was developed in-house. This means that the most visited Philippine news website also owns the distinction of being mostly powered by Filipino-made software applications.

Gantuangco said that the company has been able to thrive in this kind of environment because the INQ7 tech team can quickly ad-

PEOPLE/E4

How the Web was won

LITERALLY millions of websites are out there on the Net, so how do you make your site stand out so it will attract millions of users?

Four members of INQ7 Interactive Inc.'s tech team spill the beans on what it takes to make INQ7.net a successful website.

Brian Vicencio, INQ7 multimedia specialist, pointed out that designing websites today is a lot different than it was a year or two ago.

"I used to weave sites using Notepad — the hard way. Now, users are more knowledgeable about websites. They expect a lot fromus. There's a lot of pressure on us," Vicencio said.

He added that the challenge is for web designers to balance a site's look and cool features with the need for easy navigation and faster loading time.

Many software programs used for INQ7.net were designed in-house. En Ragasa, INQ7 business solutions manager, shared that the challenge is not only the actual programming, but also the quick turnaround time.

"We haven't really had the need to develop complex interactive programs for the user. The ones we have now are variations of fairly simple forms that the user answers. This gets fed into a database for processing. The program by itself isn't hard to do, but it's the speed at which we're expected to deliver that usually poses a challenge," Ragasa said.

INQ7 web developer Gabby Dizon also stressed that one has to be very careful when designing programs for the website.

INQ7 tech team

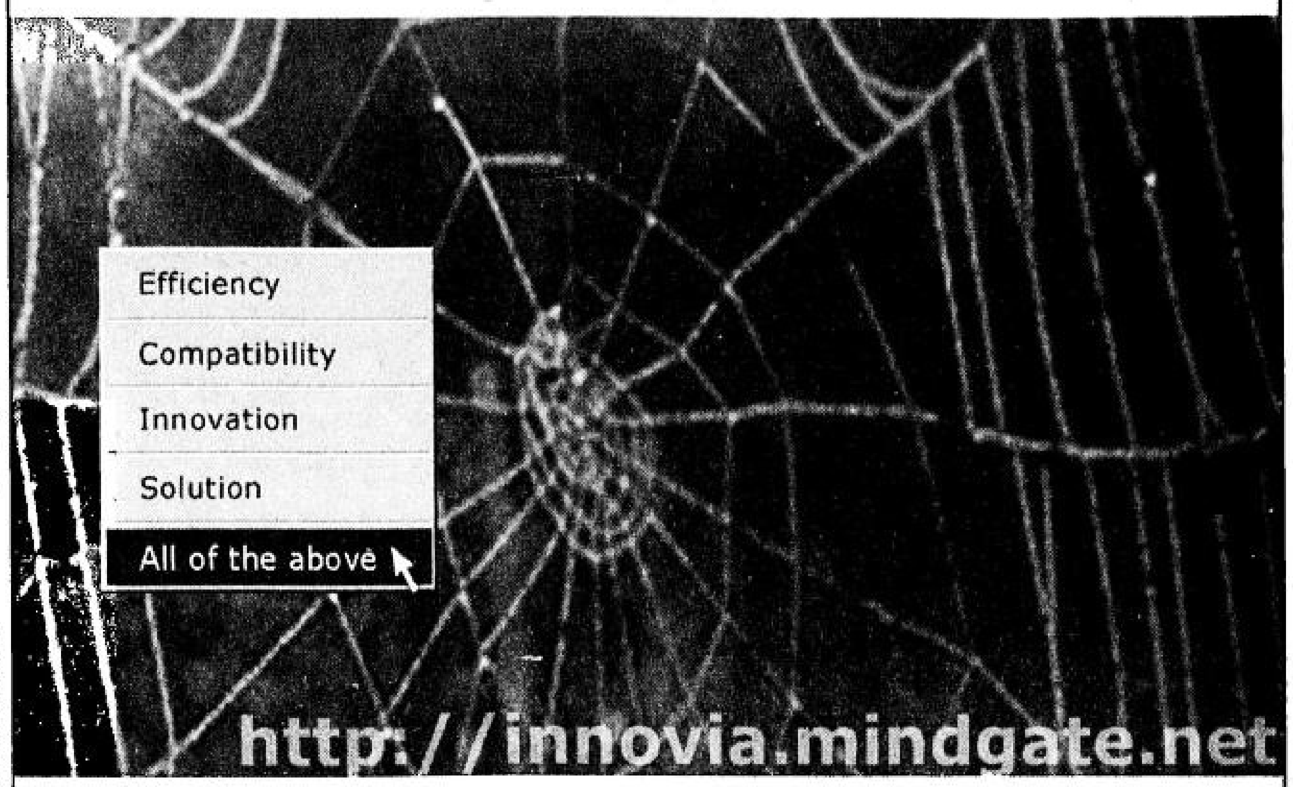
"Once it comes out everyone in the world can view it and if it screws up, it's a big embarrassment to the company. Sometimes it's (programming) fun, sometimes it's just work, but it's fulfilling because you're making something that real people actually use," Dizon pointed out.

Security, of course, is also a major concern on the Internet, particularly for a high-traffic site like INQ7.net. INQ7 web development manager Maoie Estrella, who oversees the administration of the INQ7 network, said that the company prioritizes security measures to prevent unauthorized access and protect the privacy of site visitors.

"I refrain, however, from giving the specific details. That way, fewer people will know," Estrella explained.

True, paranoia is a virtue if you're responsible for making sure the technology behind a website keeps working. So is insomnia. ***Joey G. Alarilla, INQ7.net***

Have you been caught yet?



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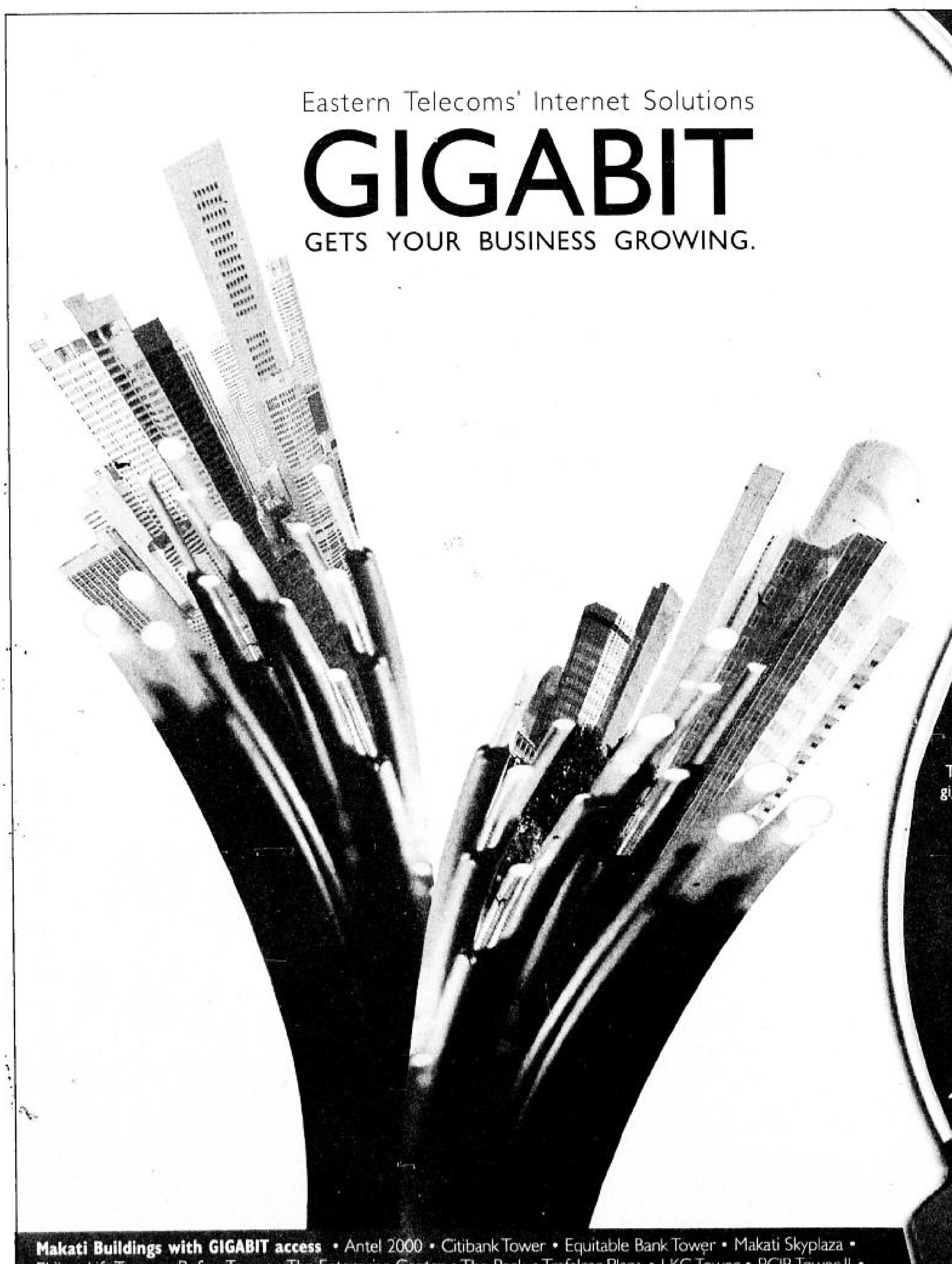
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www.etpi.com.ph

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From page E3

dress the technology demands and business directions of the news site.

INQ7, however, also relies on other software in delivering services to its audience, he said.

For instance, the company uses RealMedia's Open Ad Stream to launch and manage advertising material, he said.

"This enables us to better understand our website traffic and at the same time protect the privacy of our visitors. We are prepared to deliver more sophisticated and really cool ads using the system. It's now up to our customers to express their creativity using the Internet as a medium," Gantuangco said.

Since its launch on February 27, 2001, INQ7.net has evolved to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of users. Content management software has kept the news website up-to-date, Gantuangco said.

"The content management system made our editorial team happy. They are able to provide 24-hour breaking news. Through INQ7.net, people around the world are now able to see what's happening to Filipinos in the country and elsewhere anytime, all the time," he said.

At the height of Edsa II, INQ7.net's page views (the number of webpages viewed by each visitor) hit 1.8 million in just one night. How did INQ7.net handle the deluge, which is often the headache of website administrators?

Gantuangco said that INQ7.net uses multiple servers — powerful computers — to deliver news and information to the public.

"With almost a million individuals visiting our site per month reading our news, not all bandwidth providers can handle such traffic. You would feel as though you were being hit by a DOS (denial of service) attack the moment user access peaks," he said.

Gantuangco said that maintaining 100-percent availability of the website is a big challenge to the company's tech team.

"We are being accessed by 40 different Internet service providers around the world, and we observed that at any one point, you will experience signal dropping and access to our site will fail. In other areas, however, it will only take less than three seconds to download the INQ7 homepage," he said.

"There are several causes for this but one of the best things that the company has done is to strategically position the servers in the area nearest to the top requesting ISPs and bandwidth providers," he said.

Gantuangco cited three rules of thumb to keep the website up and running: bandwidth provision, caching and load balancing, and content management systems.

When it comes to bandwidth provision, Gantuangco said that under normal situations, utilization should only take up 40 percent of a site's maximum capacity.

"Sixty percent of your maximum capacity should be your threshold. You either upgrade bandwidth or downsize content in order to provide 'high availability,'"he said.

Gantuangco also explained caching and load balancing by pointing out that "two heads are better than one."

"Having several servers deliver the same content and format will cut down on turnaround time, and so the site will be able to serve more pages in less time," he said.

As for content management systems, Gantuangco said that these enable news websites to quickly post material on the Web.

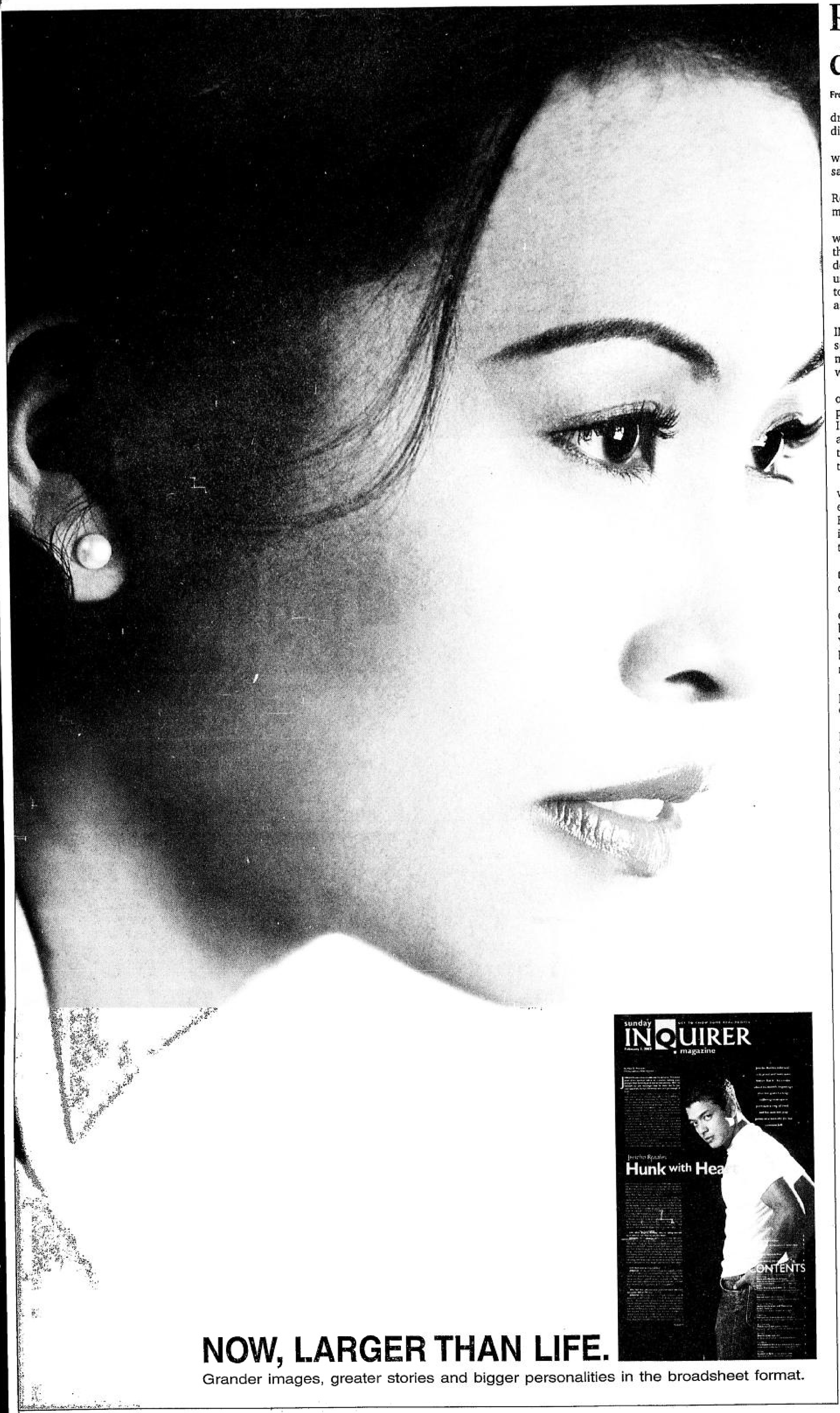
"This will allow publishers to focus more on their core competencies and concentrate on introducing innovations," he said.

So what lies ahead for INQ7.net?

"News websites will switch parts, if not all, their content delivery to a paid-service model. The technology is almost in place in major sites. It's just a matter of making the business decision and tech will switch on that key," he said.

He added that "content repurposing," which means retooling content for delivery on different devices and media, will also be the general direction of news websites.

After all, people will not be satisfied unless they can get news and services — anytime they want and anywhere in the world they may be.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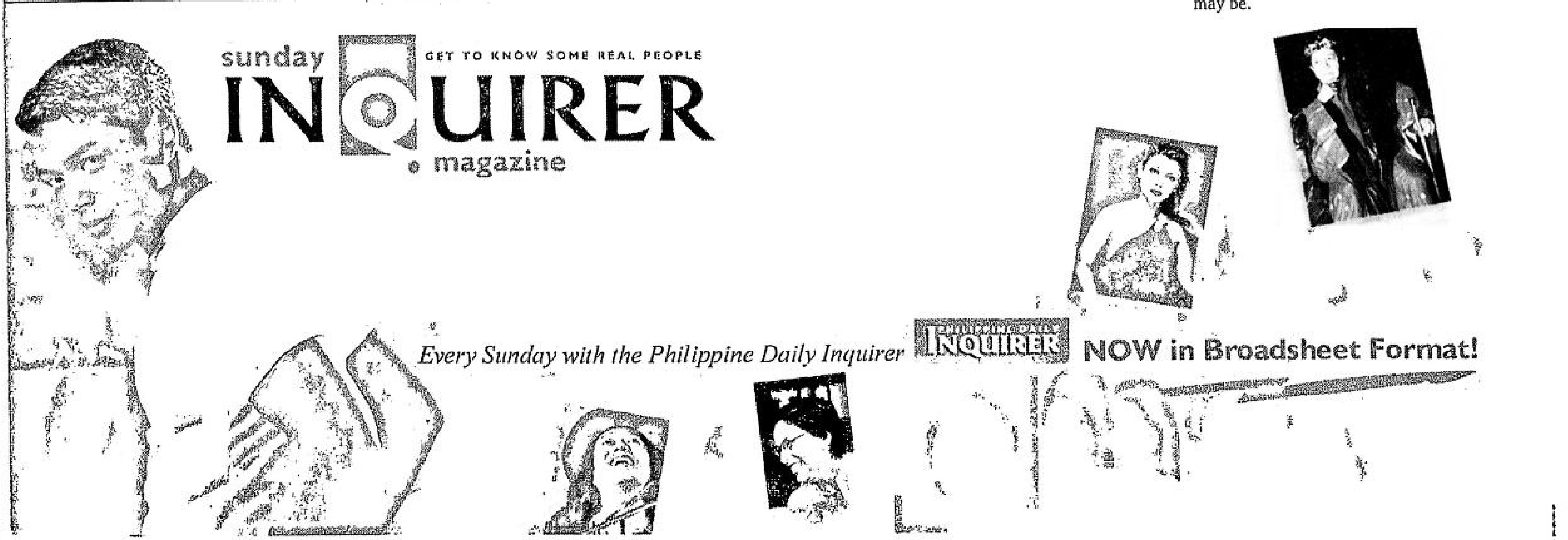
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Crossing the chasm in online advertising: Going beyond the banner ad

Edna T. Belleza
INQ7.net

WHEN venture capital for dotcoms began to dry up in the year 2000, soothsayers were quick to predict the end of online advertising. This may have been plausible at that time considering that early adopters of the medium or the pure-play dotcoms (as opposed to click-and-mortar businesses) accounted for the bulk of ad spending on the Internet.

However, a new trend has emerged in the last few months — a phenomenon that is now being described by practitioners and industry analysts alike as "crossing the chasm" between markets. While dotcoms dominated online advertising in the early days of the Internet, traditional companies are now aggressively taking over.

"While dotcoms accounted for 69 percent of digital marketing in 2000, by 2005, traditional advertisers will embrace it, driving 84% of digital marketing," said Forrester Research.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. has seen a continued increase in business not only from the usual technology and finance industries (which were the first among brick-and-mortar companies to embrace the Internet as a marketing medium), but also established brands in the consumer goods business.

With this trend, a new mindset emerges.

Branding

During the dotcom frenzy, click-through rates (or the number of times a visitor clicked on an ad to go to the advertiser's website) became the main metric for measuring effectiveness. Today, traditional marketing disciplines are taking over and brand awareness has become a more important issue.

In the early days, Internet surfers were inundated with ads that "tricked" them into clicking on the banner but did little to boost the advertiser's business, much less their image. Today, advertisers are more concerned about whether the online ad is consistent with the message they try to impart in their offline campaigns. They want to ensure that their ads reach the right audience, increase brand awareness, improve key perceptions and help generate sales.

INQ7 vice president for sales and linkages Edna Belleza

The sales process has become even more involved. Relationship building and a deeper understanding of the customer's goals — not fancy banner designs — are the key to success.

Conscious of this fact, INQ7 continues to push the envelope. The sales team not only sells advertising space but also helps clients in the development and conceptualization of interactive campaigns and promos. It has also heeded the call of advertisers to go beyond the banner ad by introducing online supplements (called Special Features on the website) and integrating event sponsorships.

This is not to say that the banner ad is dead, as some quarters would claim. Banner ads continue to get the biggest share of business as it is estimated to account for 40% of Internet ad spending worldwide. This is because the banner ad remains an important tool for brand awareness and recall. According to a Morgan Stanley report, consumers show 27% greater ability to recall a brand after seeing an Internet ad than before they saw it.

Banner ads have also become bigger and better. INQ7 was the first Philippine website to adopt new international standards for ad sizes recognized by the US-based Interactive Advertising Bureau. Called "billboards" and "skyscrapers," these new sizes give advertisers more room for creativity and interactivity without having to rely on whether visitors will click on the ad.

Audience

As in any medium, the success of an Internet ad lies in being able to send the right message to the right audience. Unlike most media, however, the Internet experience is a two-way communication process that has a global audience 24 hours a day. It is an audience that is generally young, well-educated and affluent.

An ACNielsen.consult study showed that the country has about 800,000 regular Internet users who log on at least once a week. The typical Filipino Internet user is between 20 to 35 years old (65%), has a college degree (61%) and makes between P25,000 to P40,000 monthly (58%).

The research company also showed that about 70% of Filipino Internet users choose INQ7.net as their first preference for news on the web.

INQ7.net is also the main source of news for Filipinos overseas. During the height of People Power 2, it was ranked as the 11th most visited news website in the world.

To help advertisers effectively communicate with this global audience, INQ7 was the first Philippine website to invest in technology that rotates ads for better targeting. Depending on the desired audience, for example, a banner ad can be served only on specific hours of the day.

So what is the future of online advertising? Formats, buzzwords and metrics will continue to evolve but online advertising is here to stay. In the same way that hundreds continue to troop to Mt. Everest for as long as it is there to climb, advertisers will continue to spend on the Internet for as long as there are people who log on.

As for INQ7, it can only be expected to remain innovative and set trends for Internet advertising in the Philippines.

The author is the vice president for Sales and Linkages of INQ7 Interactive Inc. She handles the company's advertising sales, marketing and business development.

INQ7 special projects manager Joey Alarilla handles online supplements

Marketing a website

SELLING the idea. Creating and implementing the marketing strategy. Developing your business properly.

Whether you're selling and marketing real-world or "virtual" products, one thing remains the same: you have to convince clients to take the plunge and to choose you over your competitors.

SALES and linkages team

Michael Sy, sales director of INQ7 Interactive Inc., said that one of the main challenges online advertising faces is that some companies still lack awareness.

"A lot of Philippine companies are still not too familiar with it and have not tried it. This this makes them think twice about advertising online. Right now mostly IT (information technology) companies and banks are into it but we are trying to convince more consumer companies to give it a try," Sy explained.

So how do you go about convincing advertisers to take the plunge? "We try to give the best value to our advertisers when we propose to them and we also offer them creative solutions that would allow them to reach their target market and sell their products. Recently, we have introduced special online supplements that have been quite popular with advertisers," he shared.

According to INQ7 marketing officer Marilyn Dee, it is also important to show advertisers how the Internet will complement their existing marketing campaigns in traditional media, namely, print, TV and radio.

"We tell advertisers that we are not competing with print or TV advertisements. Instead, online advertising complements their 'offline' advertising and marketing campaign efforts," Dee said.

A website's potential revenue streams do not only stem from online advertising but also services such as e-commerce, classified ads and syndication.

INQ7 business development officer Sheryll Ang stressed that coordination is crucial to ensure that an Internet company's different revenue streams will complement each other.

"To succeed in this environment, 'multi-tasking' is essential. You need to be able to juggle a lot of things at any given time. Flexibility is also important to handle the different facets of INQ7 like syndication, mobile services and strategic partnerships. At the end of the day, you have to work well with people, since a lot of the projects involve working with different teams within INQ7 as well as in other companies," Ang said.

Bringing the news, anytime, anywhere

A WORLD where every device is connected and users can receive and publish content while on the go?

Hardly news to those who've heard all the promises before, but this kind of mobile collaboration is revolutionizing the way media companies deliver the news.

"'Mobile' is definitely a word I would use to describe a key requirement of any news organization. You don't just sit at your desk and wait for the news to come to you. Imagine the ability to interface with your office and get the news out through your PDA (personal digital assistant). Imagine the ability to receive critical updates and information quickly yet comprehensively via your current cell phone. These are not new promises. We've heard these for years," said Jojo Ayson, product manager for Exchange and .Net Enterprise Servers of Microsoft Philippines.

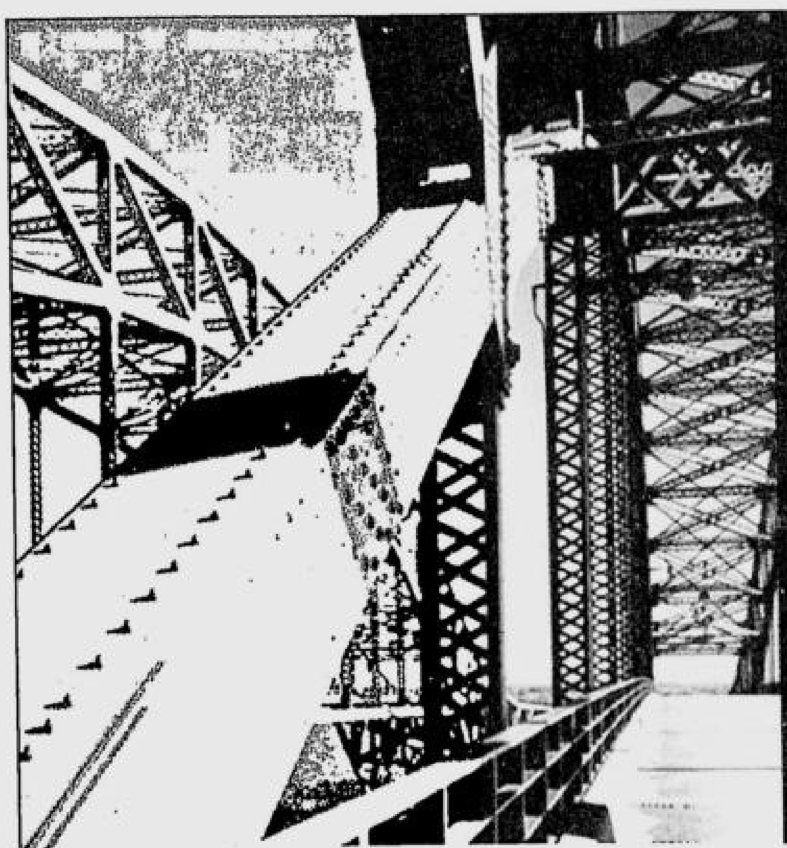
For online news organizations, this kind of mobility is particularly crucial because of the need to quickly respond to events as they happen, process the information, and publish it instantly.

According to Ayson, Exchange 2000, Microsoft's messaging and collaboration solution, offers a broad range of mobility options for the members of news organizations. Launched in October 2000 in the Philippines, Exchange 2000 is a vital component of the software giant's .Net strategy of transforming software applications into interactive online services.

"Microsoft.Net enables companies to develop applications that utilize Web services to maximize the collaboration between multiple applications and devices. Exchange 2000 becomes a vital key for the individual to interface to these Web services," he explained.

Since Exchange offers secure access to your corporate e-mail account via any web browser, journalists have a variety of options for checking information from their sources or updates from the central desk. For example, they can use a computer in an Internet café and securely connect to their corporate e-mail accounts via Outlook Web Access, according to Ayson. They can also access their company's network and interface directly with Exchange 2000 if they have a Pocket PC 2002 PDA.

"After all, you're not chained to your desk, so your messaging system doesn't have to be too," Ayson quipped.



Microsoft Exchange2000

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(Source: 2001-2002 IT Resource Handbook, WS Computer Publishing Corp.)

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Head of department information processing for engineering and sales, Bosch K5

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COMPAQ
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Not just the news

INQ7.NET has already won distinction as the most visited and trusted Philippine news website. In this age of true interactivity, however, bringing people the news — though vital — is not the end of the story. As the Internet becomes even more intertwined with our daily lives, websites must evolve into thriving communities offering valuable online services.

As part of its commitment to enriching user experience, INQ7.net has developed interactive portals that address the needs of specific communities of Netizens. One such online community is YOU, INQ7.net's interactive portal for the youth at http://you.inq7.net/, which had its soft launch on Nov. 26. YOU serves as the umbrella site for three main sections catering to today's youth. 2bU! captures the spirit of today's youth, Cross-Campus focuses on life as a student while Junior Inquirer talks about the interests of future adults.

YOU will be formally launched on April 6 at the Glorietta in Makati City. Computer maker Compaq is one of the sponsors of the YOU launch party and will collaborate with INQ7 in developing an "interactive adventure race." This activity will also involve the e-Lounge Internet café at the Glorietta.

In August 2001, INQ7 Interactive Inc. also entered an online cooperation with information technology firm Diversified Financial Network Inc. Under the agreement, the existing DFNN.com finance portal was expanded into the interactive online financial guide INQ7money at www.inq7money.net.

After the dotcom crash, the tech slump and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, companies have also had to rethink their e-commerce and online advertising strategy in order to survive in the much more competitive business landscape. Responding to and anticipating these changing needs, INQ7.net is also set to launch Marketplace this March. Marketplace will serve as the umbrella site for INQ7.net's existing e-commerce and online classified ad services.

With literally millions of websites competing for the ever-fickle attention of Netizens, however, what is it about these sites that would encourage surfers to keep coming back?

Leo Magno, INQ7 vice president and executive editor, stressed that YOU is radically different from other youth-oriented sites.

"Ninety percent of the site is written by the youth themselves. We call it a website for the youth and by the youth, an example of a user-generated and user-driven site," Magno said.

Sheryll Ang, INQ7 business development officer, also cited YOU's interactive services.

"YOU, 2bU!, Junior Inquirer and Cross-Campus all feature the "What's Up" portion powered by our partner Scheds.com. Surfers can refer to this section for any event worth going to within and outside Manila," Ang pointed out.

Taking advantage of the fact that the country lays claim to being the world's text messaging capital, YOU will also incorporate SMS (short message service)-based online polls.

Ang said that users will just have to send YOU POLL through 2333 for Globe users and 211 for Smart users and their votes will then be registered online instantly.

Meanwhile, visitors who log on to INQ7money will not only benefit from up-to-the-minute financial news and information, but will also be able to conveniently manage their finances online using personalized tools.

DFNN executive chair Ramon Garcia Jr. said that the partnership allows the two companies "to strategically align INQ7 and the DFNN site to allow better economies of scale, reach, functionality and content. This is a worldwide trend which allows for a strong match-up of partners with complementary skillsets."

In a business climate where companies seek more innovative ways of marketing their products and services online, Marketplace provides greater flexibility for "e-lessees" or strategic partners that will set up their virtual storefronts.

Marketplace will be the umbrella site for INQ7.net's iShopping e-commerce services, online classified ads and JobMarket Online.

The virtual marketplace will offer greater flexibility compared to traditional online banner ads. E-lessees will be able to highlight different products, deciding which goods and services to promote online as needed. This will enable them to react in Internet time to changes in market demand.

In the end, sites will continue to become more interactive, offering a more immersive environment for surfers who are now looking beyond text and graphics — and beyond just the news.

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